



# Hikaru no Go

SHONENJUMP MANGA

Story by **Yumi Hotta** Art by **Takeshi Obata**  
Supervised by **Yukari Umezawa (5 Dan)**

volume

1



YOU ARE  
FOR NOW.



AM I A  
STRONGER  
PLAYER THAN  
HIKARU?

### Yumi Hotta

Oftentimes I have trouble with storyboards. When that happens, I just keep telling myself, "It's okay, Obata Sensei will think of something!"

—Yumi Hotta

It all began when Yumi Hotta played a pick-up game of Go with her father-in-law. As she was learning how to play, Ms. Hotta thought it might be fun to create a story around the traditional board game. More confident in her storytelling abilities than her drawing skills, she submitted the beginnings of **Hikaru no Go** to **Weekly Shonen Jump's** Story King Award. The Story King Award is an award that picks the best story, manga, character design and youth (under 15) manga submissions every year in Japan. As fate would have it, Ms. Hotta's story (originally named, "**Kokonotsu no Hoshi**"), was a runner-up in the "Story" category of the Story King Award. Many years earlier, Takeshi Obata was a runner-up for the Tezuka Award, another Japanese manga contest sponsored by **Weekly Shonen Jump** and **Monthly Shonen Jump**. An editor assigned to Mr. Obata's artwork came upon Ms. Hotta's story and paired the two for a full-fledged manga about Go. The rest is modern Go history.



**HIKARU NO GO VOL. I**  
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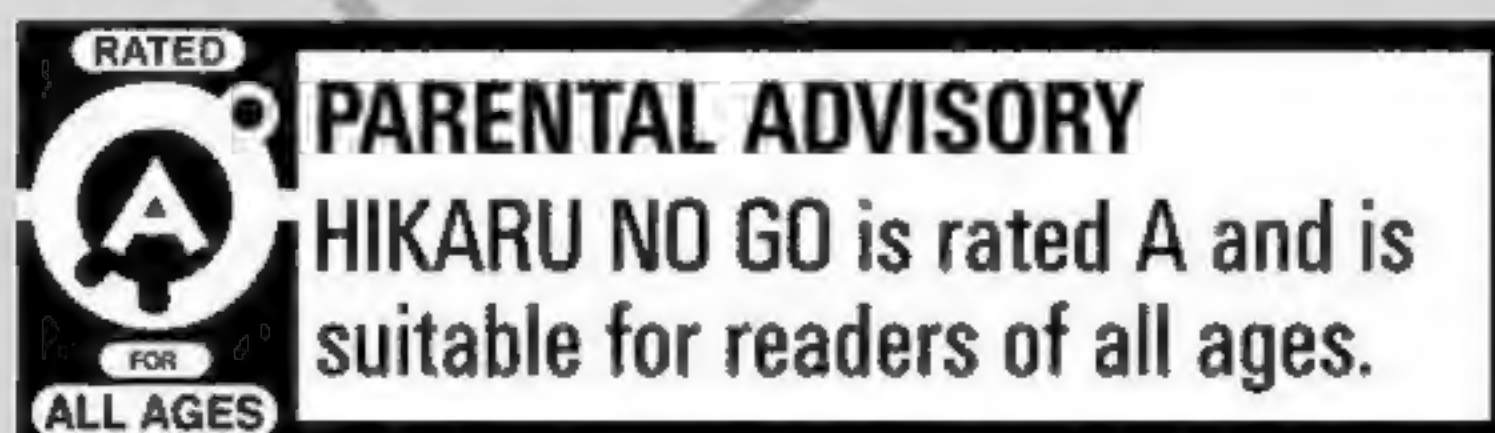
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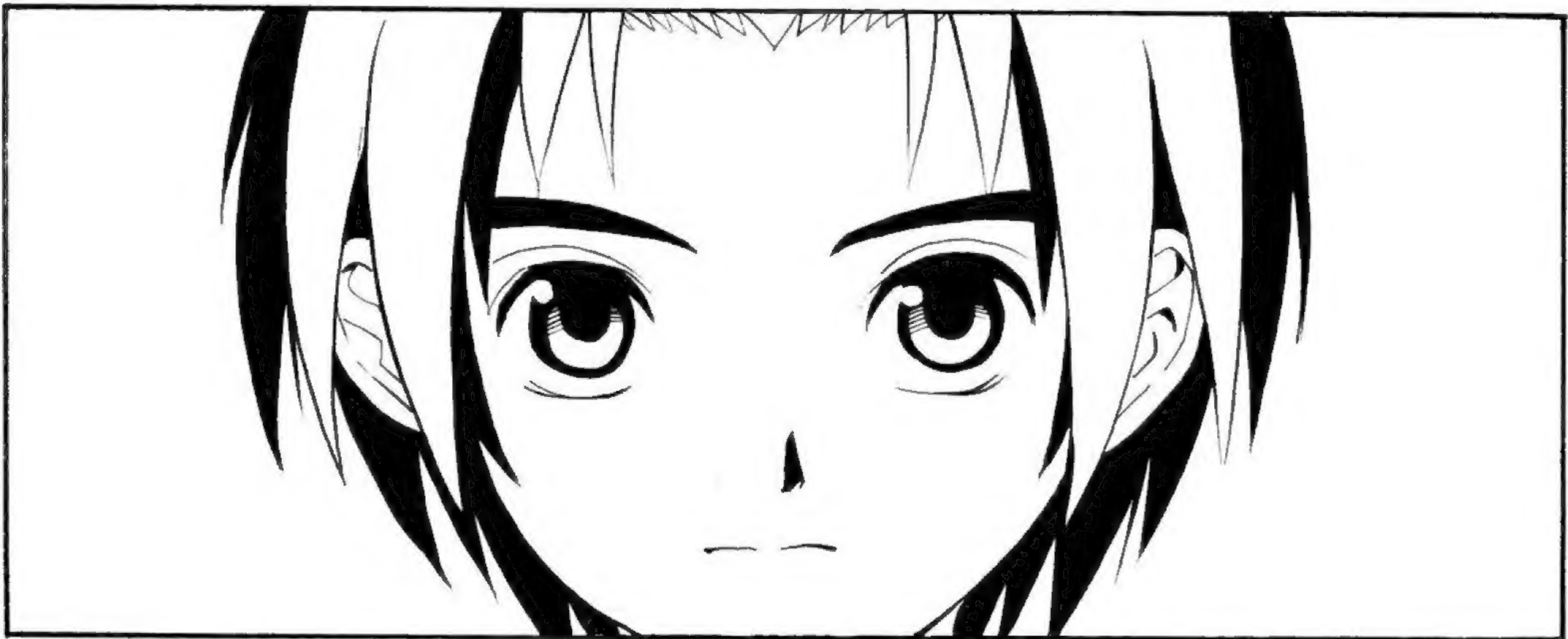






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## DESCENT OF THE GO MASTER



STORY BY YUMI HOTTA

ART BY TAKESHI OBATA

Supervised by YUKARI UMEZAWA (5 Dan)



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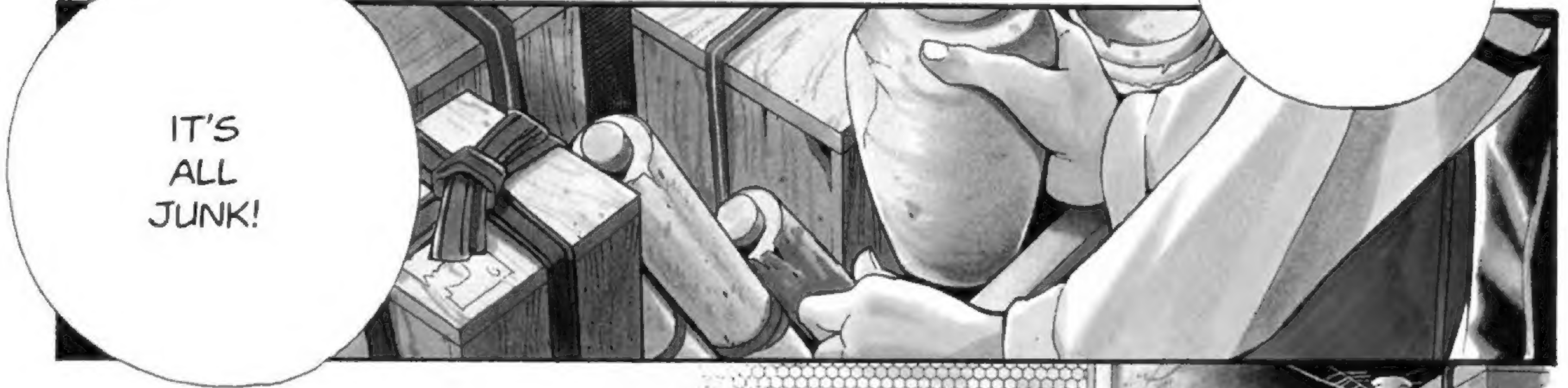
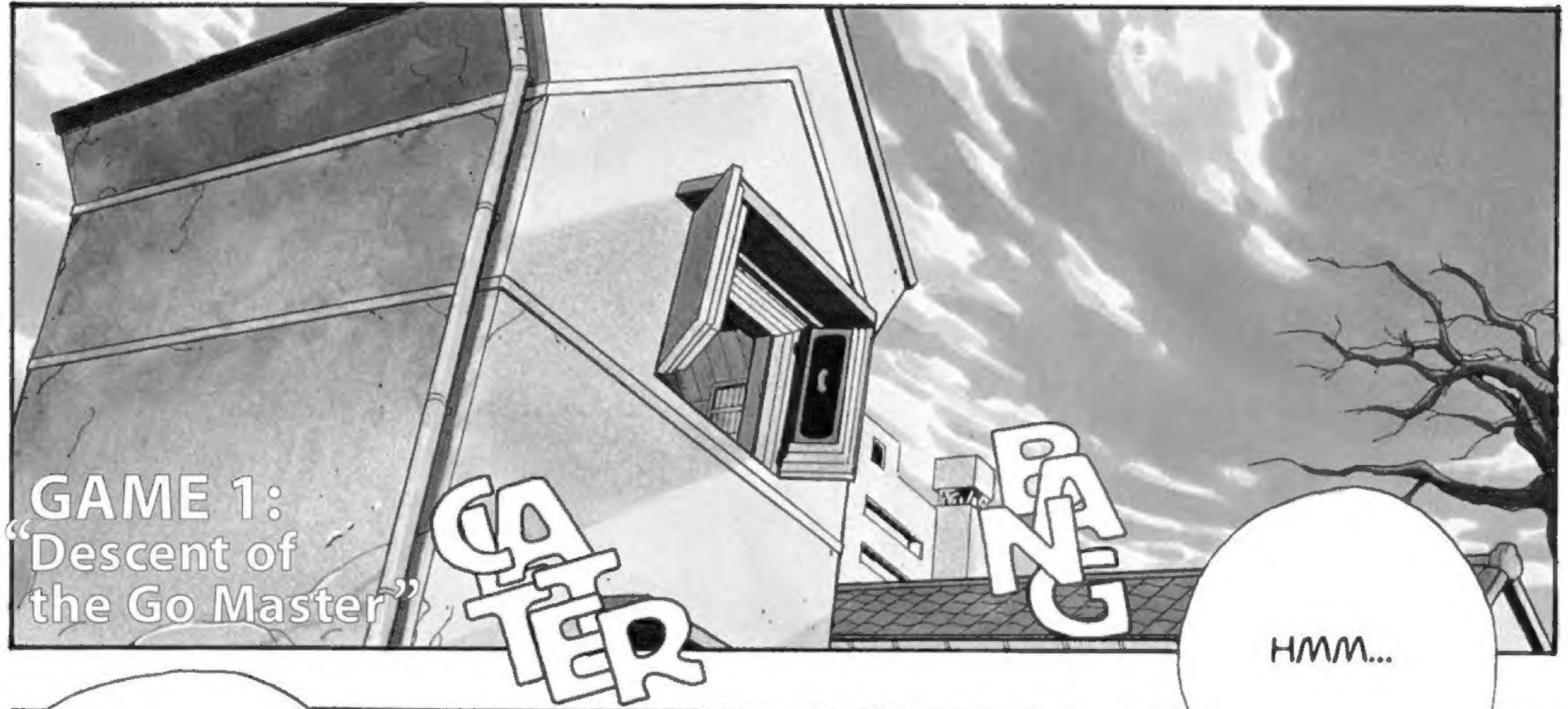
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## GAME 1

“Descent of the Go Master”





UMF...

HEY,  
LOOK AT  
THAT...

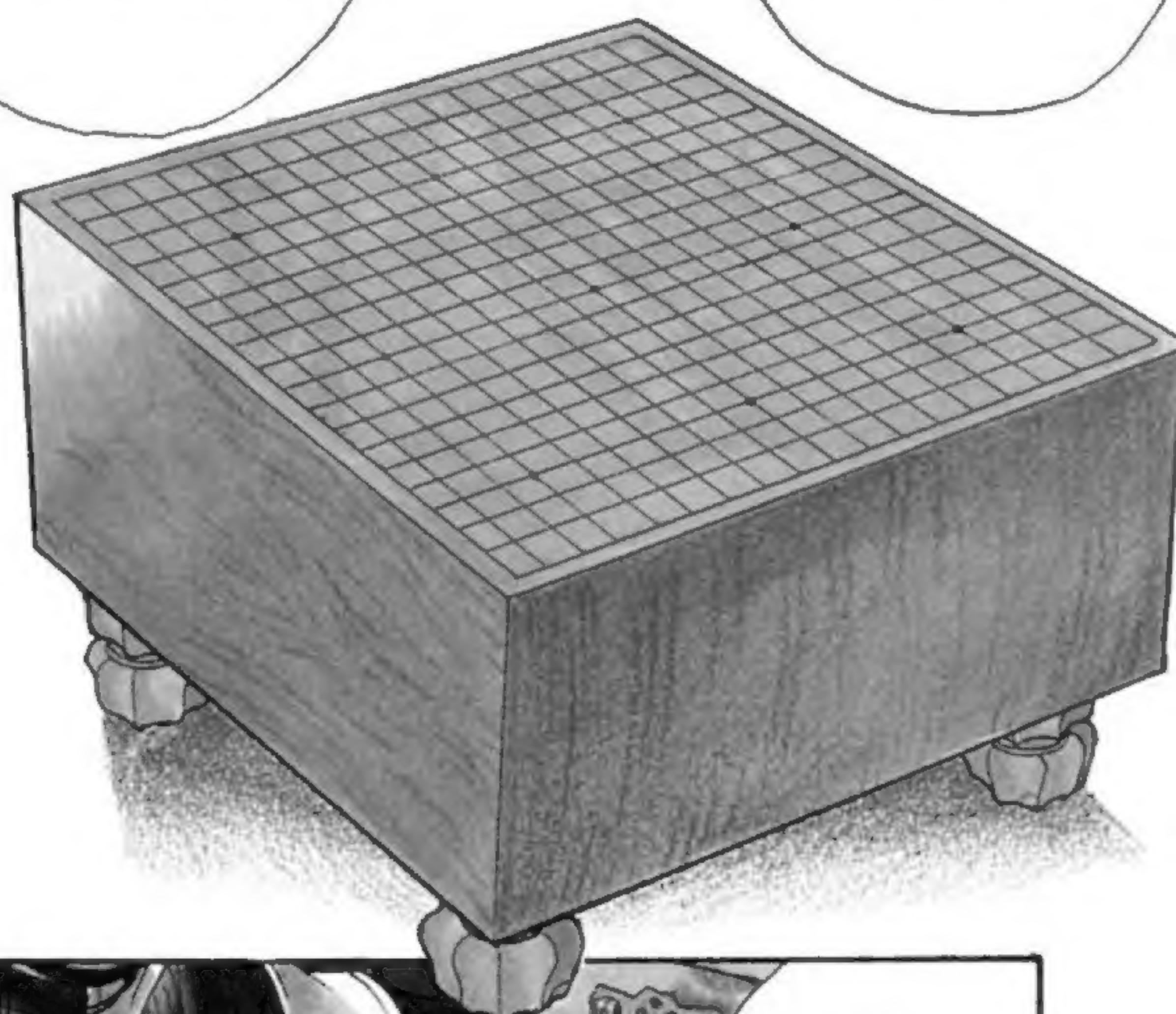


BET I'LL  
GET A LOT OF  
MONEY FOR IT!  
ANTIQUES  
ARE POPULAR  
THESE DAYS,  
YOU KNOW.

AND IT  
SURE DOES  
LOOK OLD.  
GRANDPA  
MUST'VE USED  
IT A LONG  
TIME AGO.

DON'T  
BE DUMB.  
THIS IS A  
GO BOARD.

A FIVE-  
IN-A-ROW  
BOARD.



BESIDES,  
I NEED THE  
MONEY. MY  
PARENTS  
CUT OFF MY  
ALLOWANCE  
'CAUSE I ONLY  
GOT 8 POINTS  
ON THAT  
SOCIAL  
STUDIES  
TEST.

DON'T  
WORRY!

WIDE  
WIDE

ARE  
YOU  
SURE  
IT'S ALL  
RIGHT?  
I MEAN,  
MAYBE  
YOU  
SHOULD  
ASK--















F

W

U

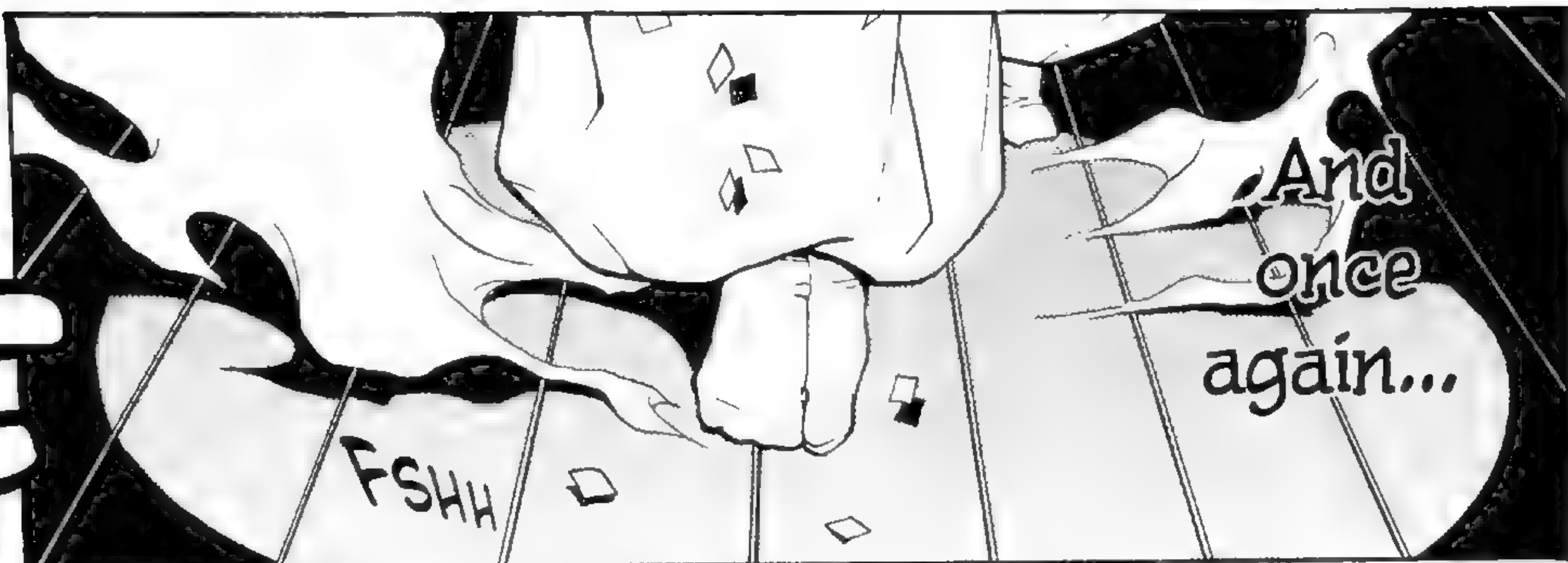
M

P

o

o

o



And  
once  
again...

I am  
allowed  
to return  
to this  
world...

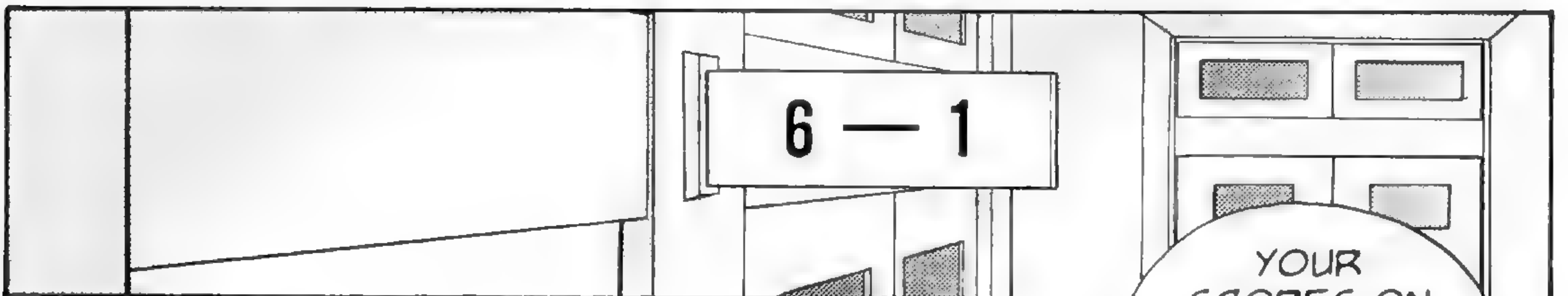
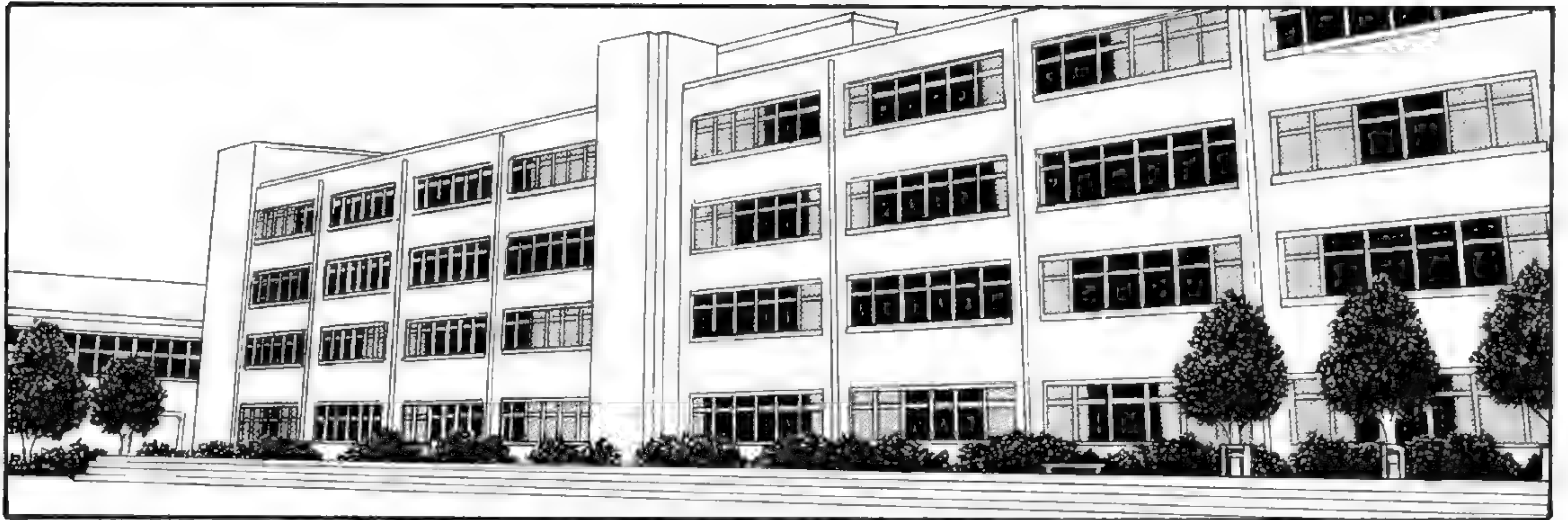
Finally...



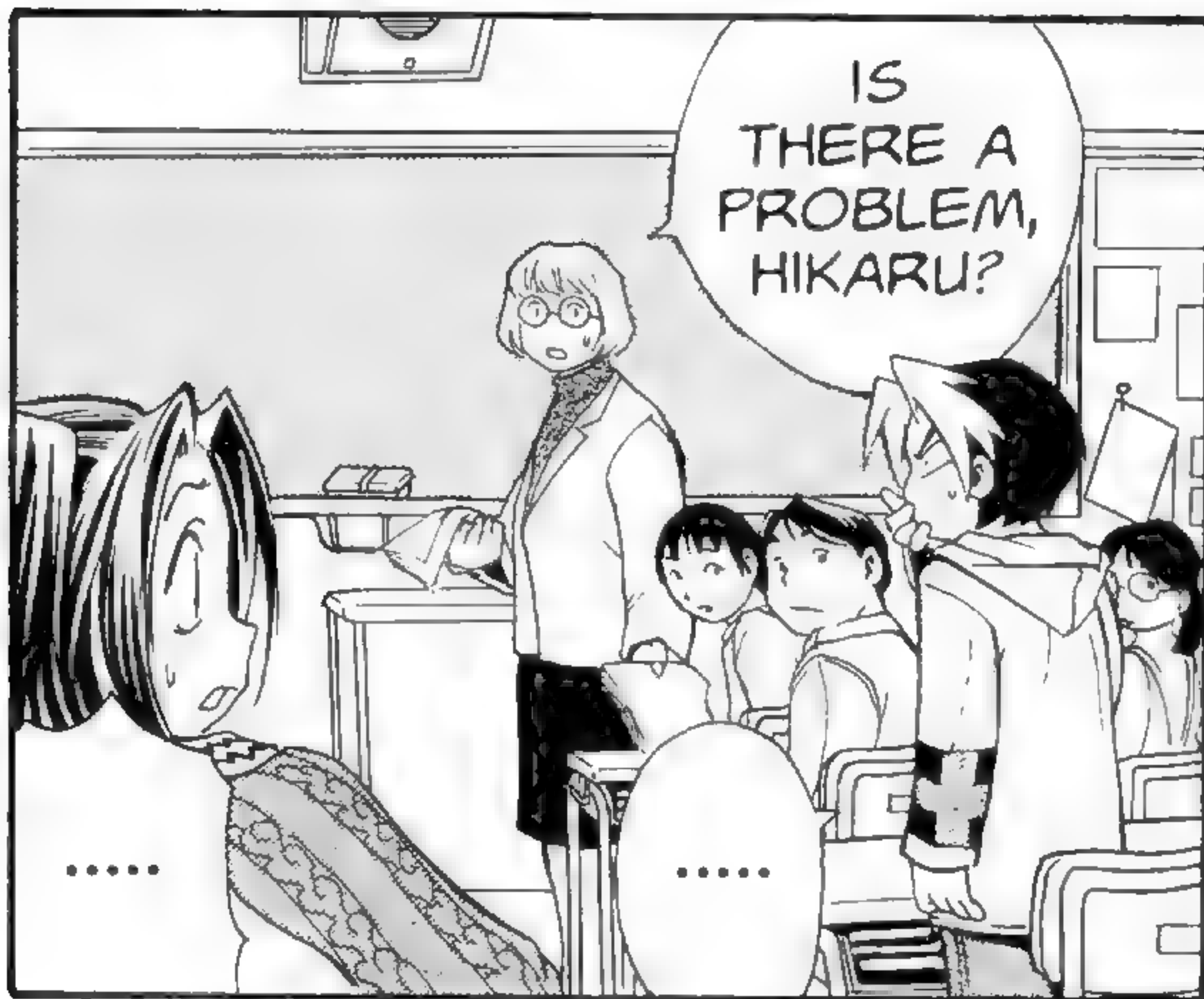
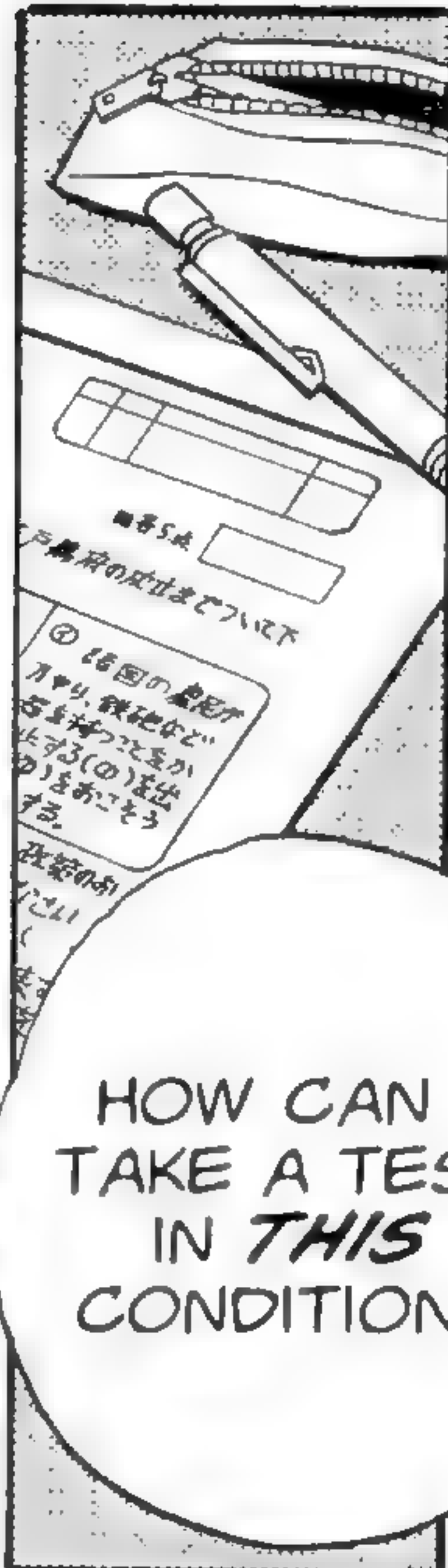
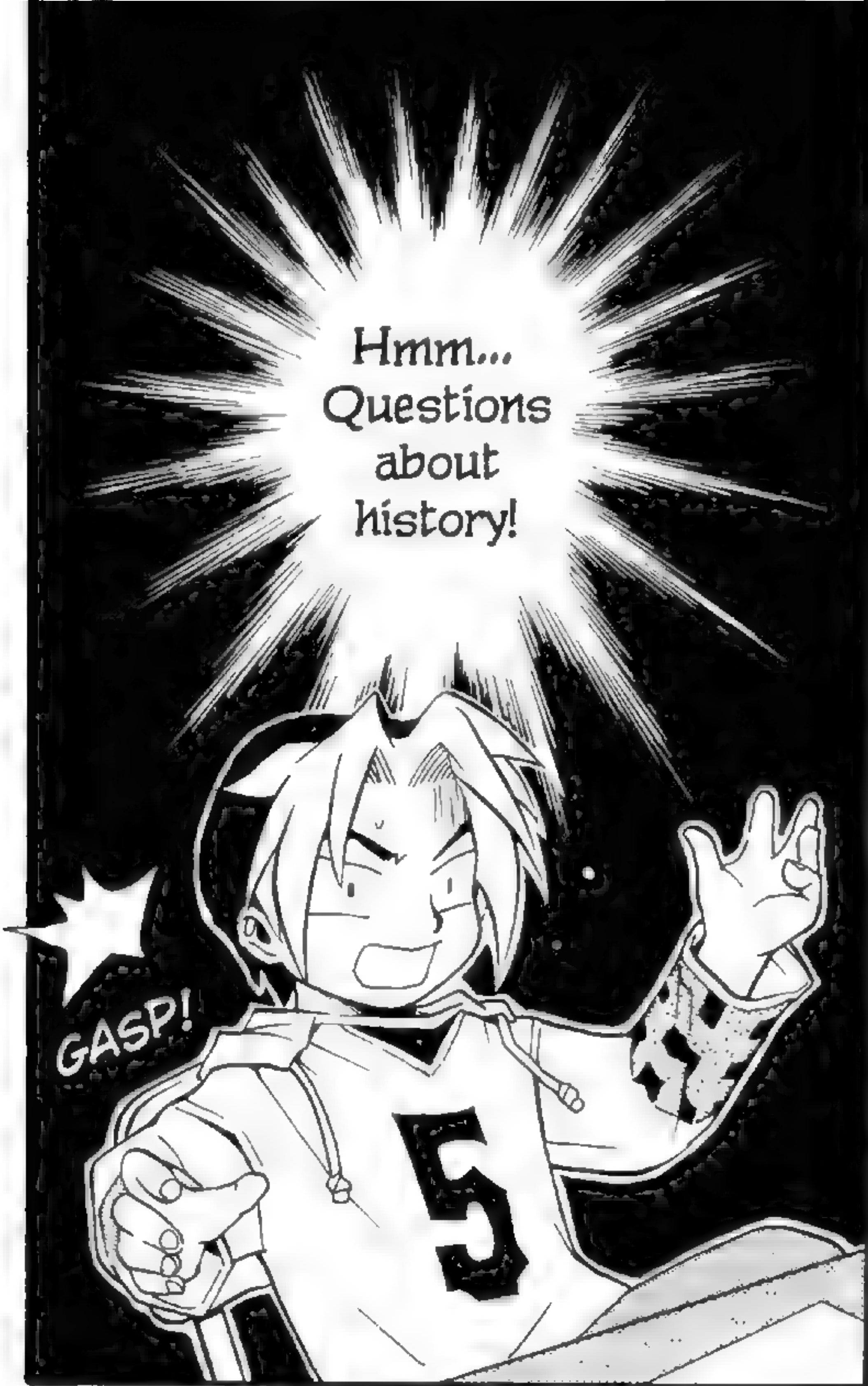




















During the Heian Period\*, I held a position in the Capital as Go instructor to the Emperor.

\*Heian Period: 794-1185



GO INSTRUCTOR ?!

HEIAN PERIOD...?



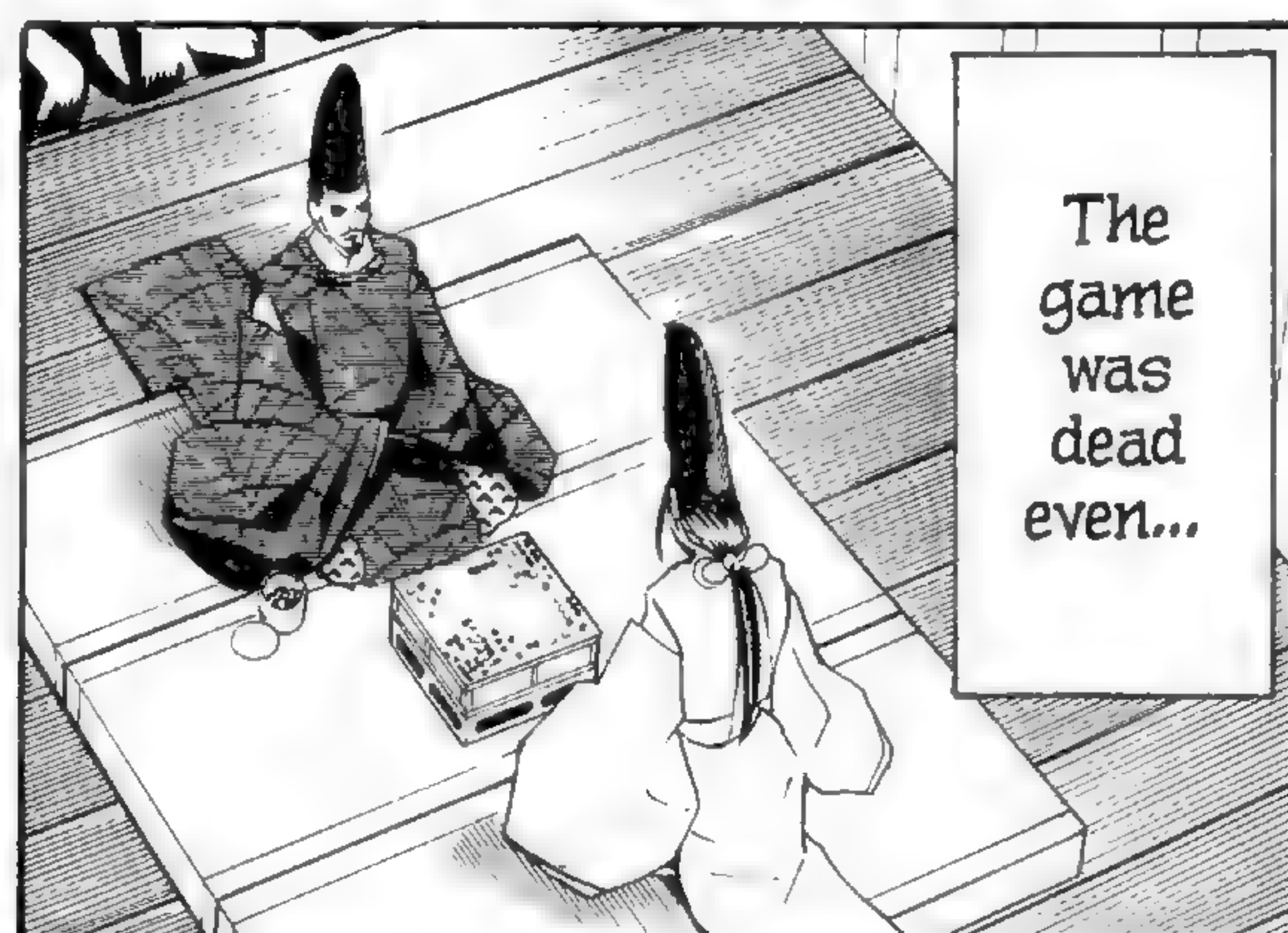
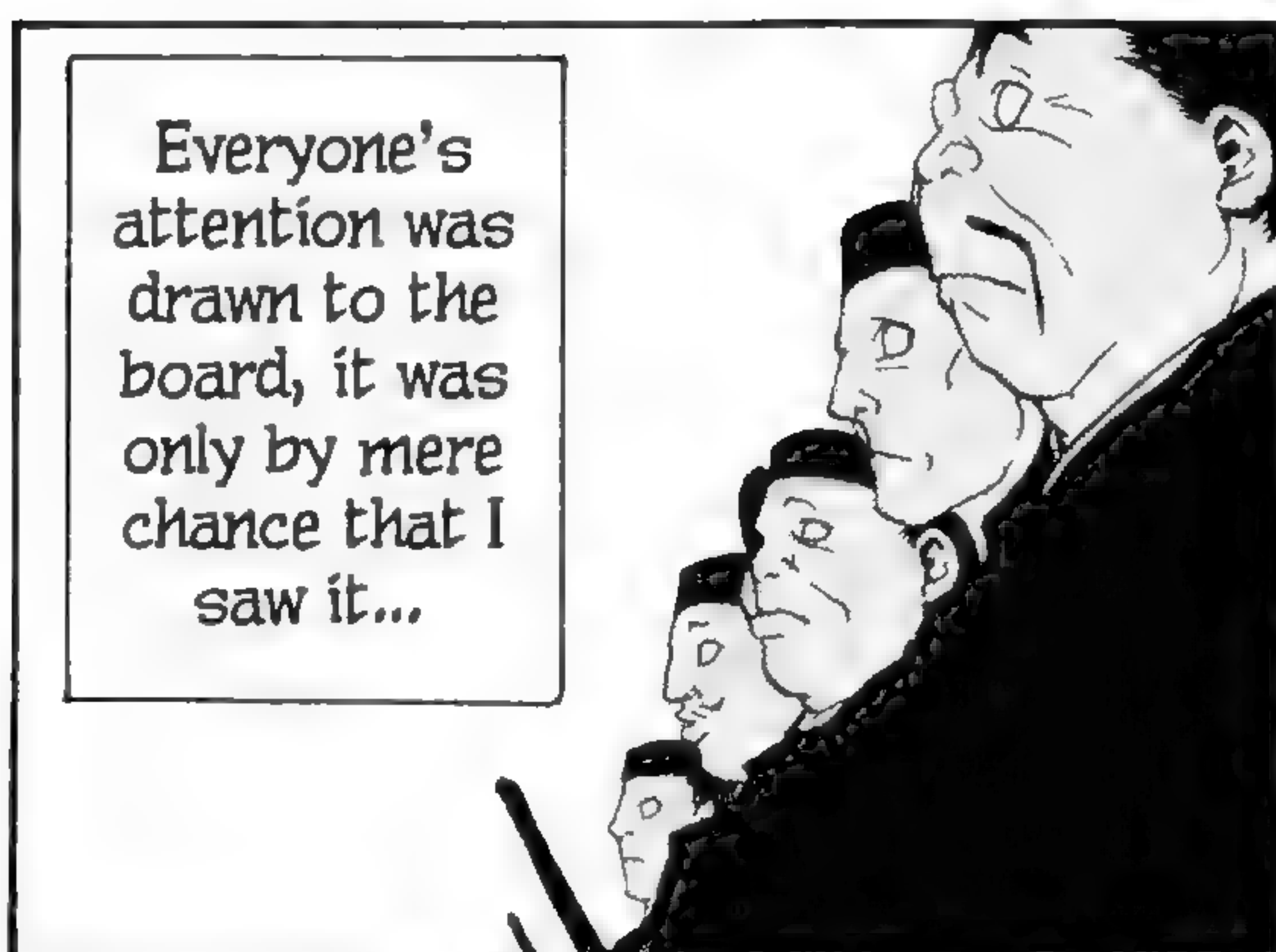
One day, he approached the Emperor with a suggestion...

In addition to myself, there was one other Go instructor.



It was such a happy time for me, I was able to play Go every day...

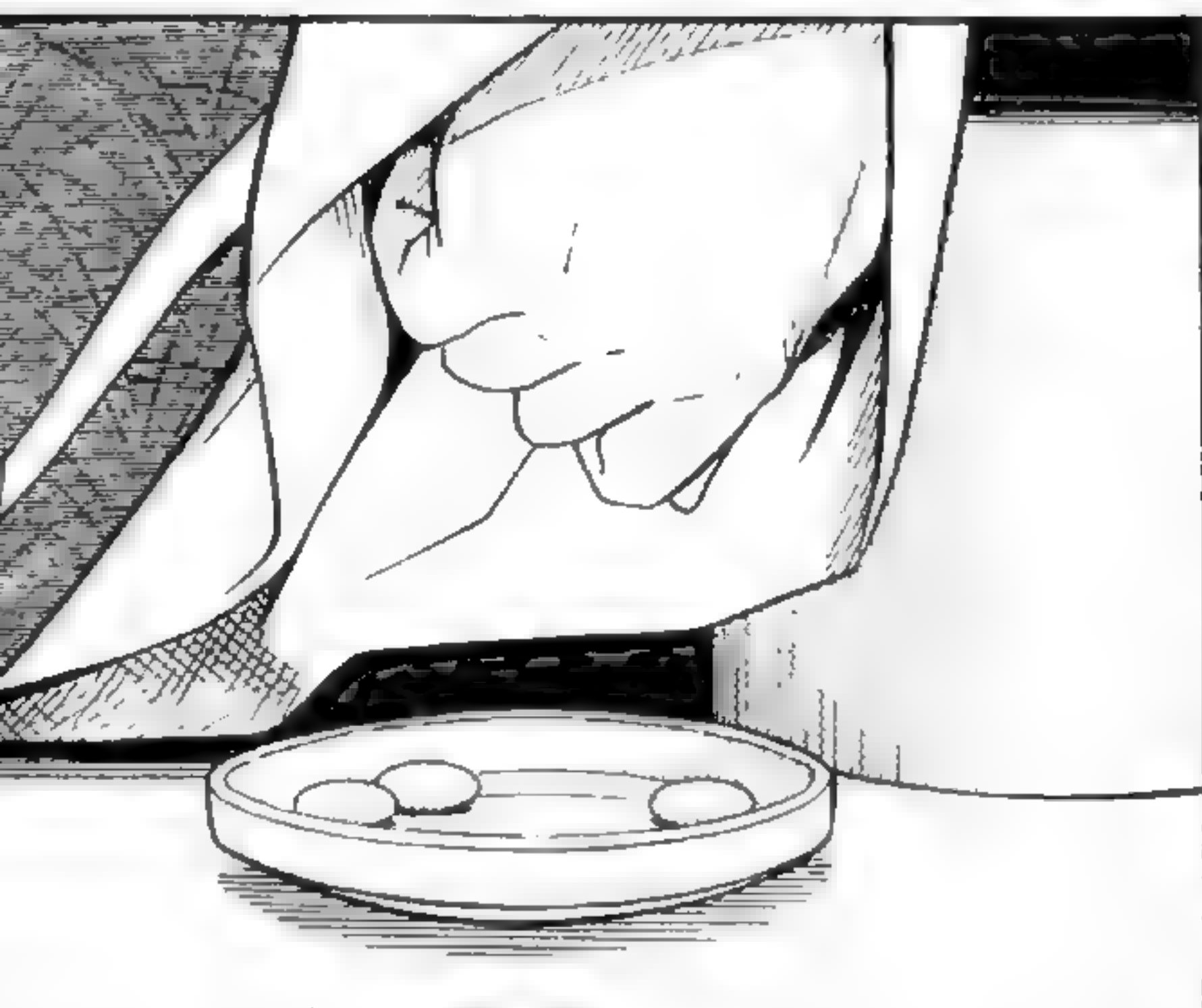




\*A container used to keep a player's stones



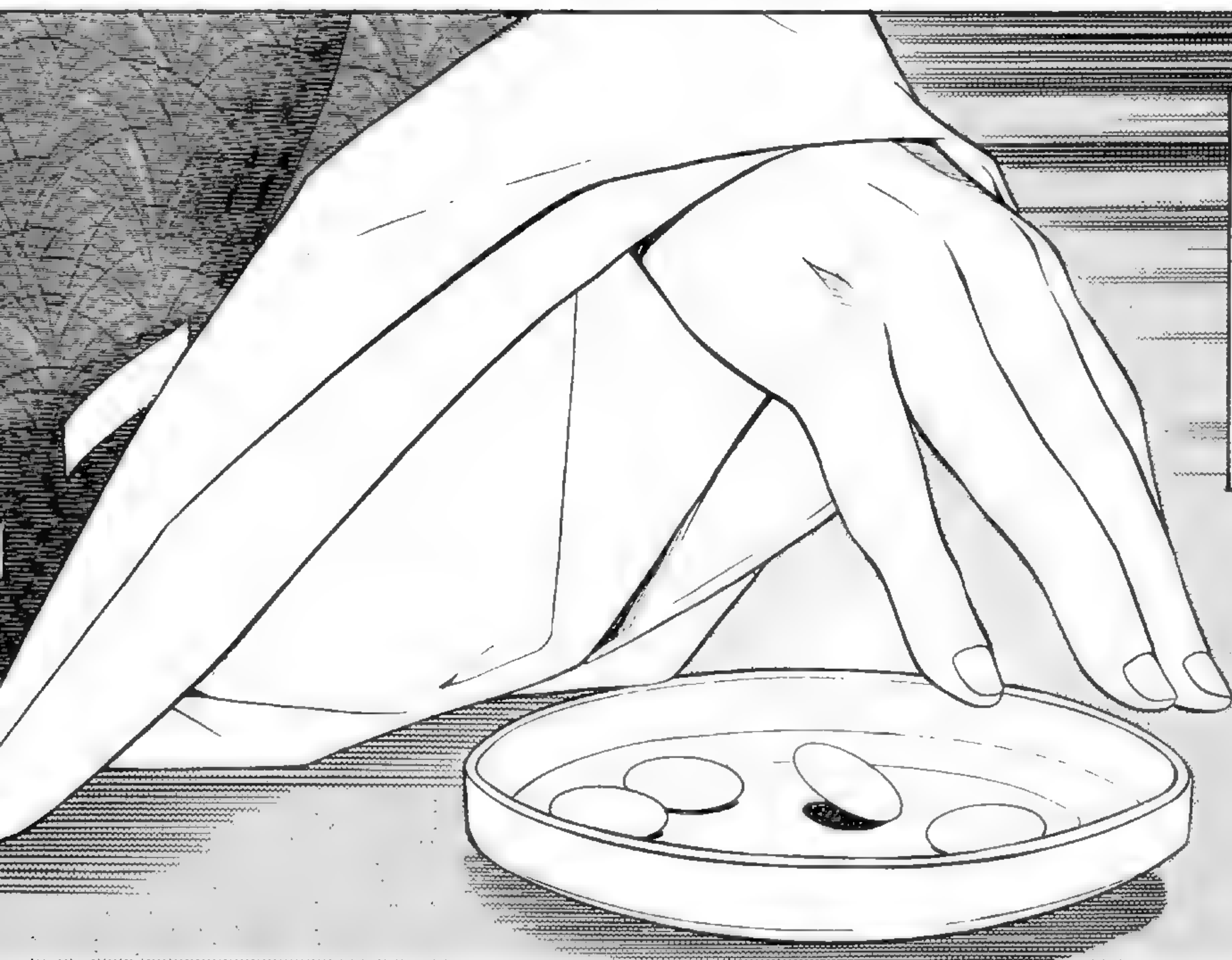
He waited for  
an opportune  
moment...



This, of course, has  
nothing to do with  
game play. A player  
need just explain the  
situation and return  
the misplaced stone  
to his opponent's  
Go bowl.  
However, *that*  
scoundrel...



To have one of  
your opponent's  
stones mixed in  
with your own is  
highly unusual,  
but on occasion,  
it *has* been known  
to happen.



...and then  
he placed  
the stone  
in with his  
prisoners...



YOU  
MEAN, HE  
CHEATED?!





YOU  
SCOUND-  
REL!

And just  
when I  
was about  
to call  
him on  
his foul--



I SAW WHAT  
YOU JUST DID!  
YOU PUT AN  
EXTRA BLACK  
STONE IN  
WITH YOUR  
PRISONERS!



EVERYONE  
ELSE WAS  
LOOKING AT  
THE BOARD,  
BUT I SAW  
WHAT YOU DID!  
YOU HAD ONE  
OF *MY*  
STONES IN  
YOUR GO  
BOWL AND  
YOU SLIPPED IT  
IN WITH YOUR  
PRISONERS!

I  
SAW  
YOU!



WHAT?!



READ THIS WAY



HAH! A  
PITIFUL  
EXCUSE!!

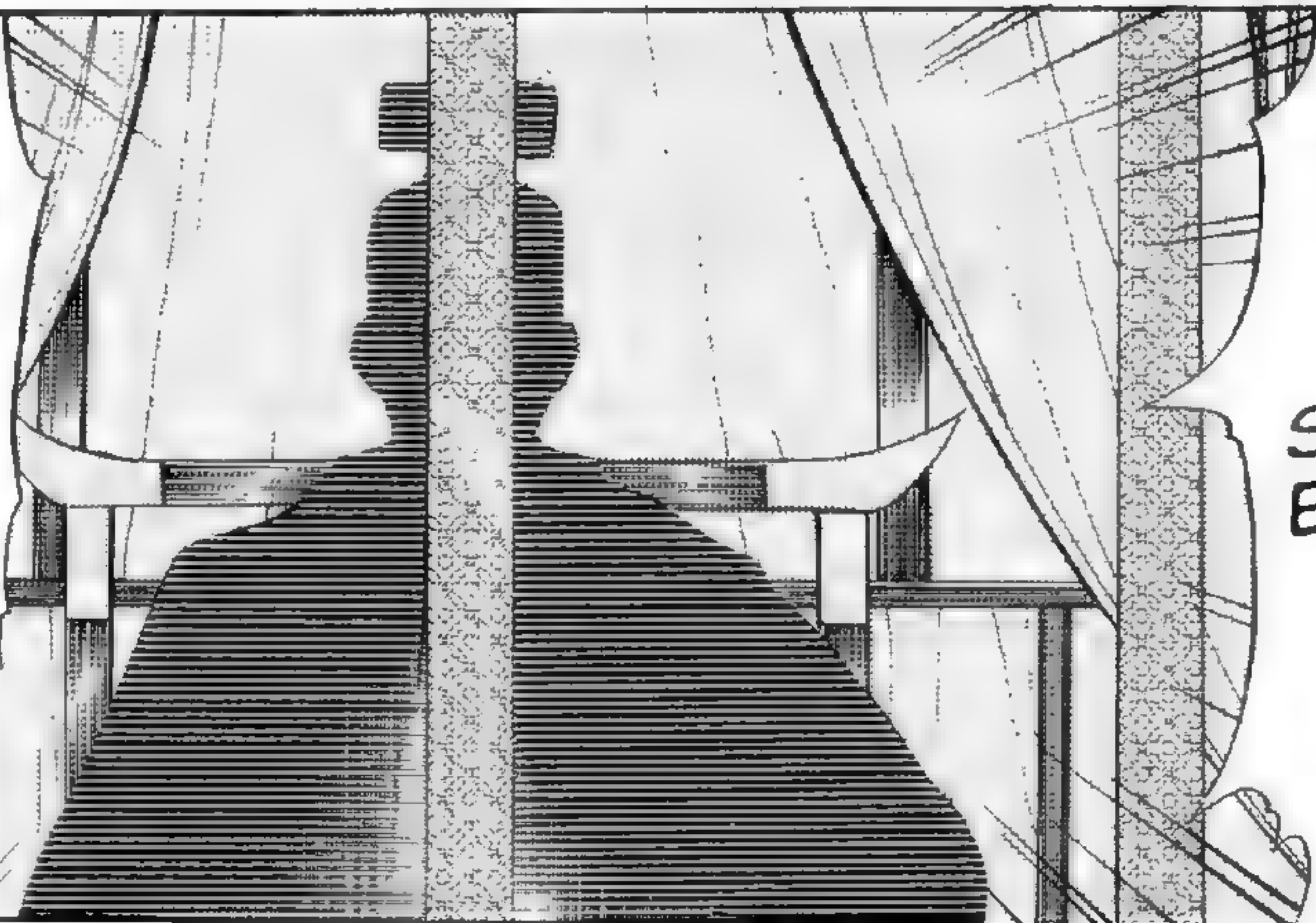
MMBLE

MMBLE



WH-WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING?!  
THAT IS  
WHAT YOU  
JUST DID  
WITH A  
WHITE  
STONE!!

I REFUSE TO  
BELIEVE THAT  
EITHER OF YOU  
WOULD  
COMMIT SUCH  
AN UGLY  
OFFENSE IN  
MY PRESENCE.  
NOW,  
ON  
WITH  
THE  
GAME!



SILENCE!  
ENOUGH!



Upset with  
the turn of  
events, I  
was unable  
to calm  
myself  
down...



ON  
WITH THE  
GAME,  
INDEED...

HEH  
HEH...





My  
yearnings  
were strong,  
I wanted to  
play more  
Go...

No...

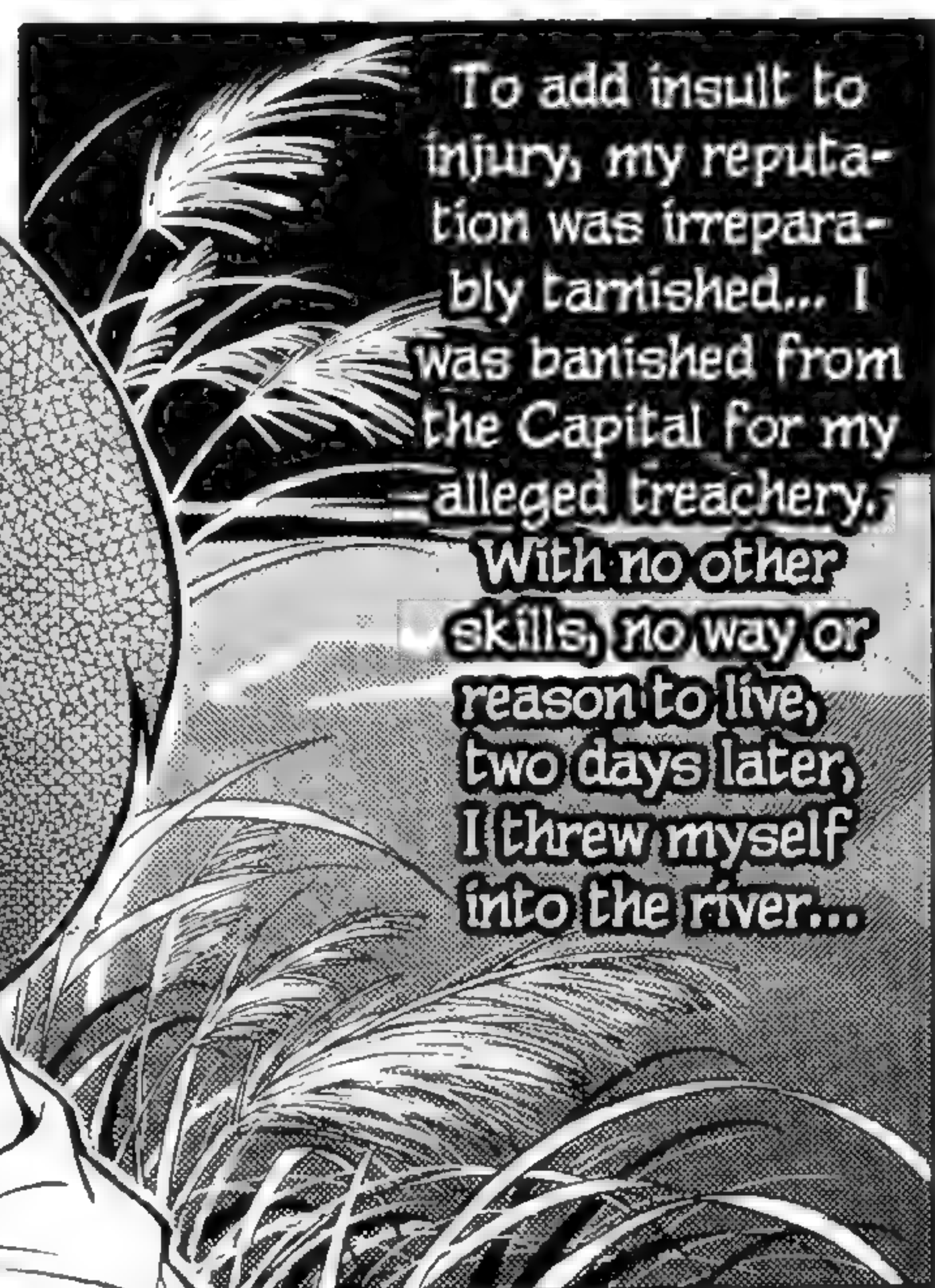
Would  
my soul  
be allowed  
to depart  
this life  
and enter  
nirvana?



...I lost  
the game...

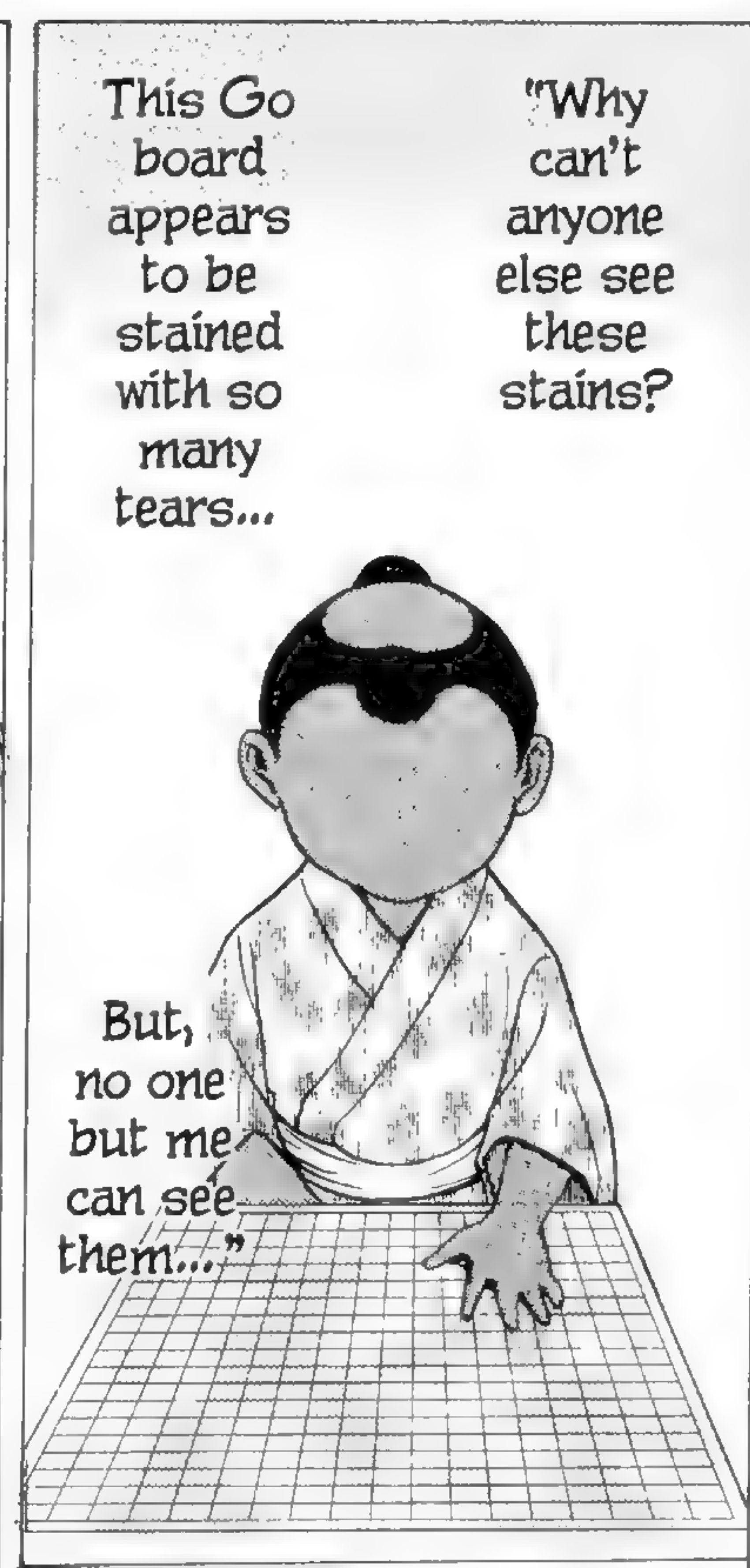
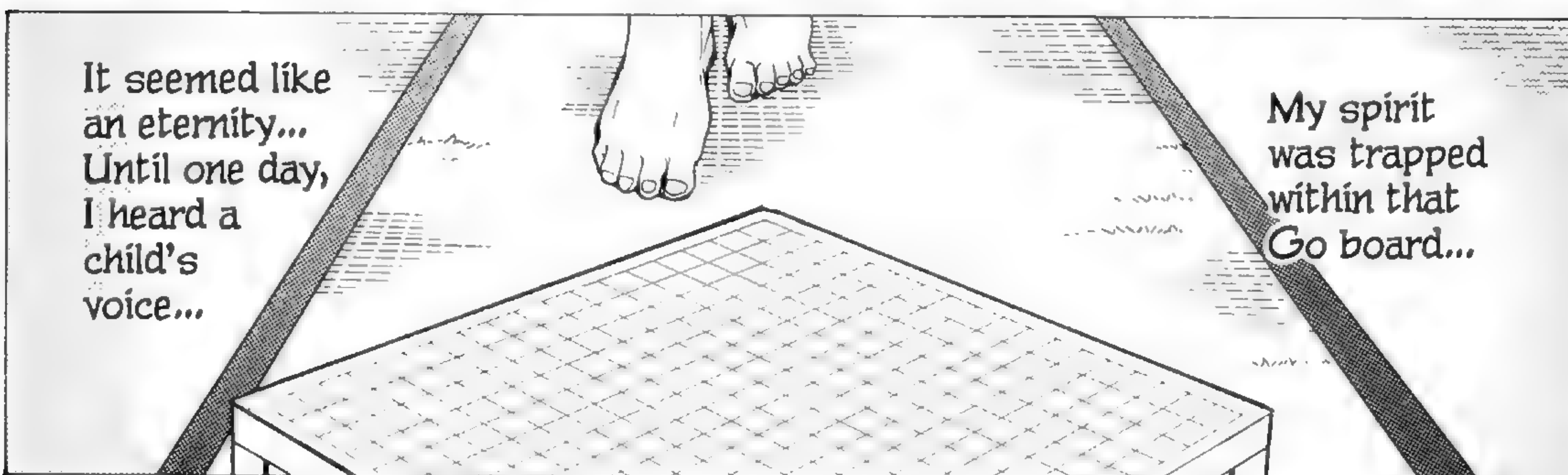


.....



To add insult to  
injury, my reputa-  
tion was irrepara-  
bly tarnished... I  
was banished from  
the Capital for my  
alleged treachery.  
With no other  
skills, no way or  
reason to live,  
two days later,  
I threw myself  
into the river...

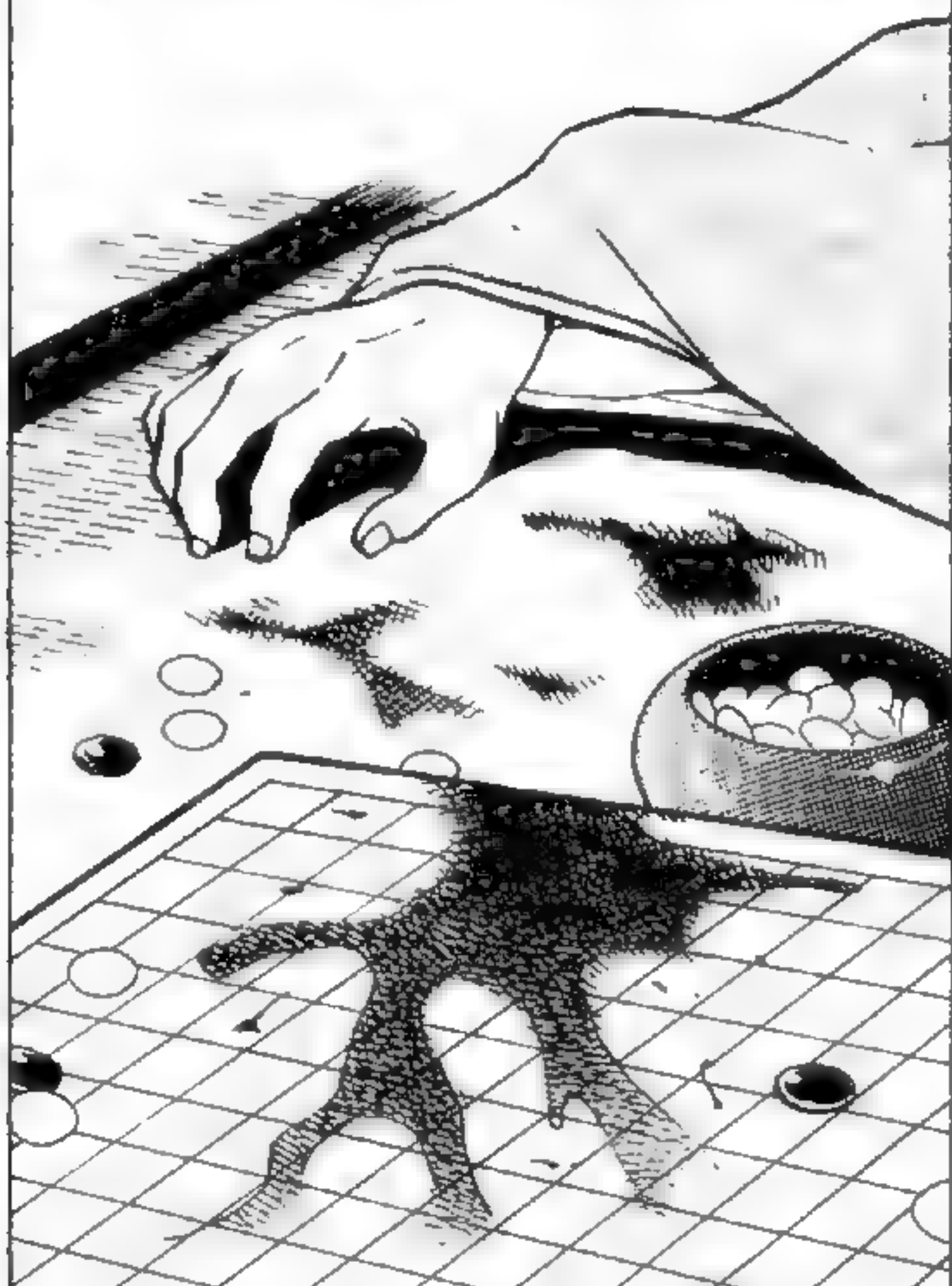






The child eventually became the best Go player of the Edo period.\*

Unfortunately, he died a feeble and sickly death at the young age of 34.



My greatest desire was fulfilled-- I was allowed to play Go once again...



The child was an aspiring Go player. He happily allowed me into his soul...

\*Edo Period: 1600-1868



NEVER HEARD OF HIM... SO, THE BLOOD STAINS ON THAT GO BOARD MUST'VE BEEN FROM HIM...

HON'INBO-SHUSAKU, HUH?

He was a very good person...

His name was Hon'inbo-Shusaku...



I still have not accomplished my goal...



Yes...

I SUPPOSE THAT MEANS YOU STILL WANT TO PLAY GO?

SINCE YOU'VE COME BACK TO THE REAL WORLD THROUGH ME...





I have  
yet to  
play  
"the  
Divine  
Move."

Yes!  
♡

IS THAT  
SO...?


YOU  
LIKE GO  
THAT  
MUCH?

Yes...

?

"THE  
DIVINE  
MOVE"...?

pwip

Why would  
a kid like me  
play **Go**?!  


TOO  
BAD I HAVE  
ABSOLUTELY  
NO INTENTION  
OF PLAYING  
GO.

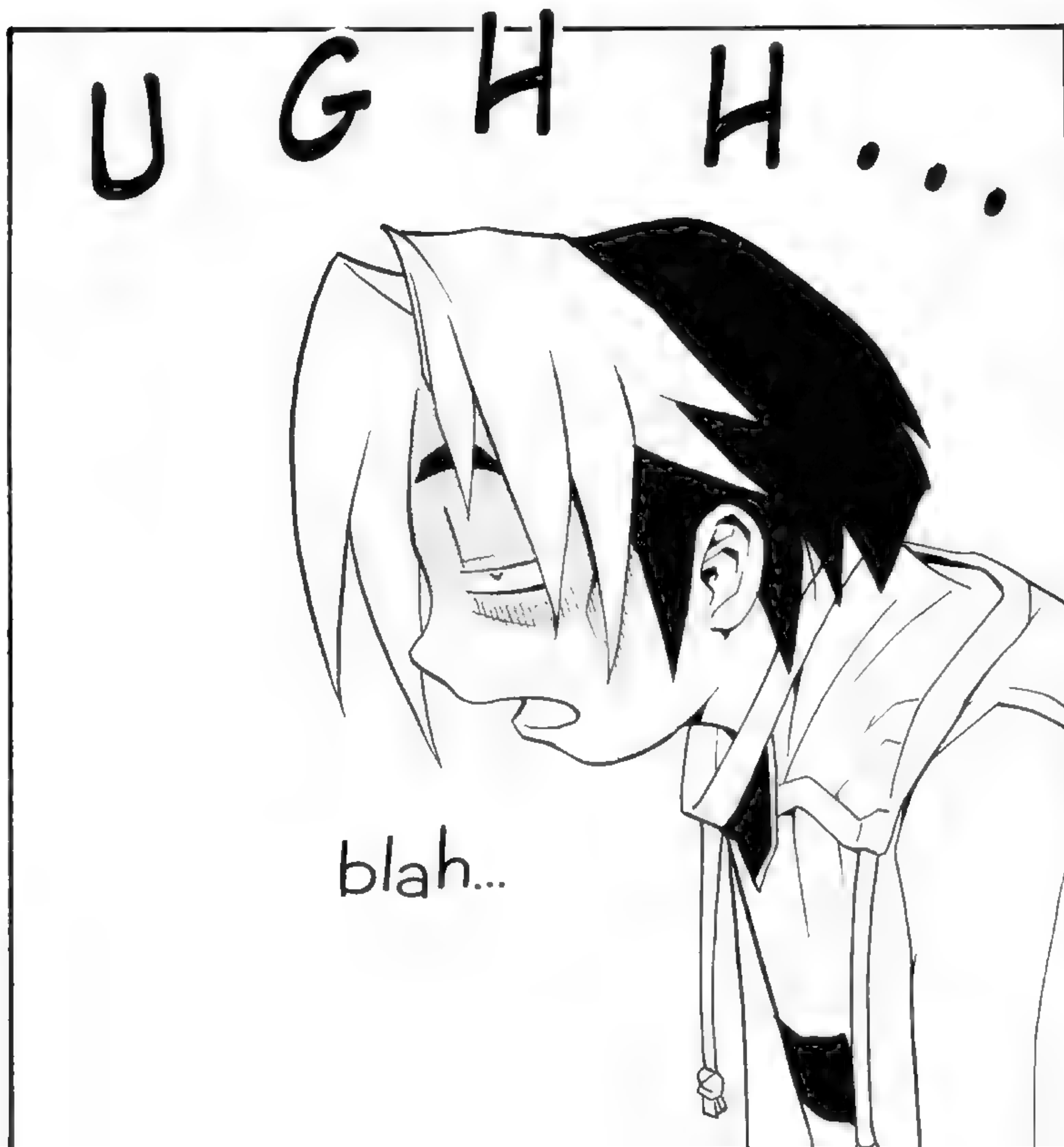
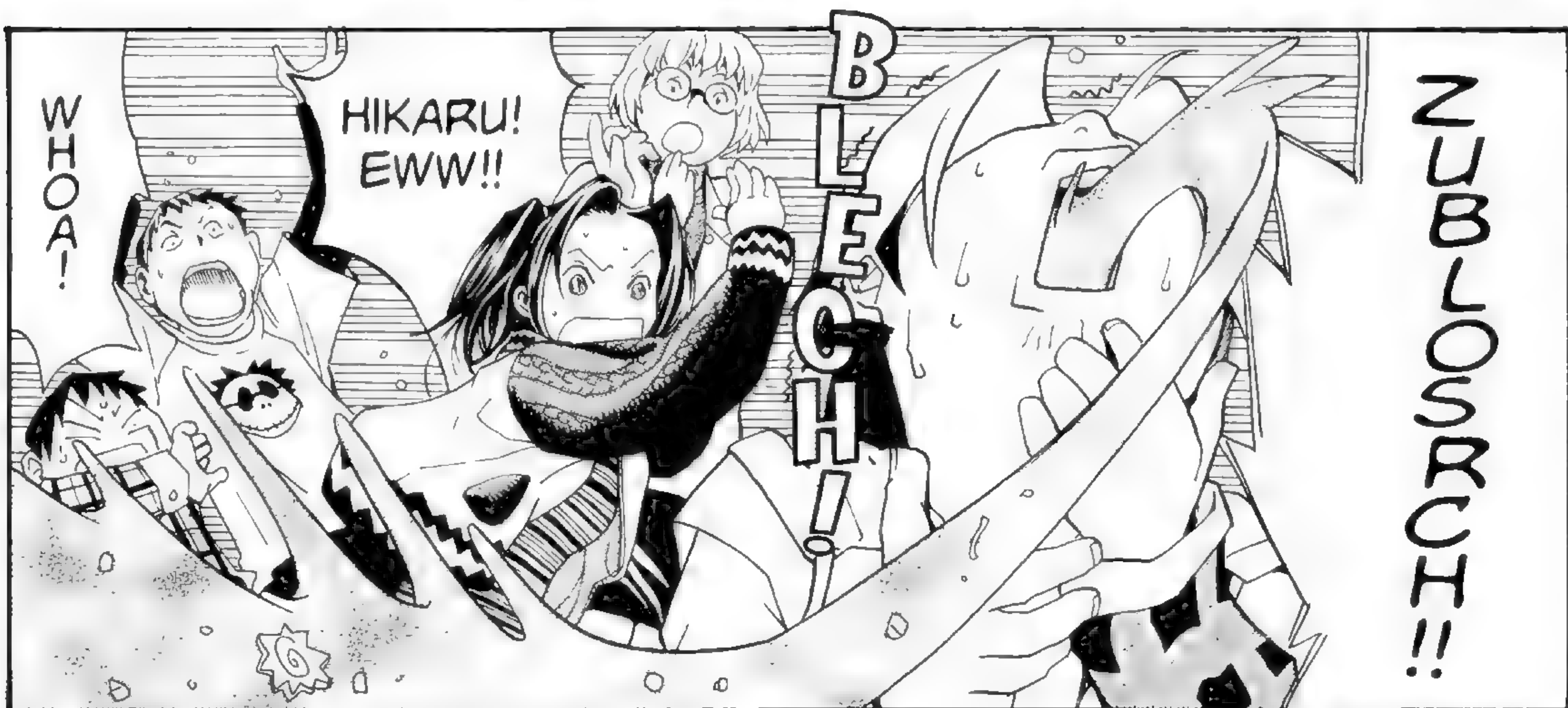
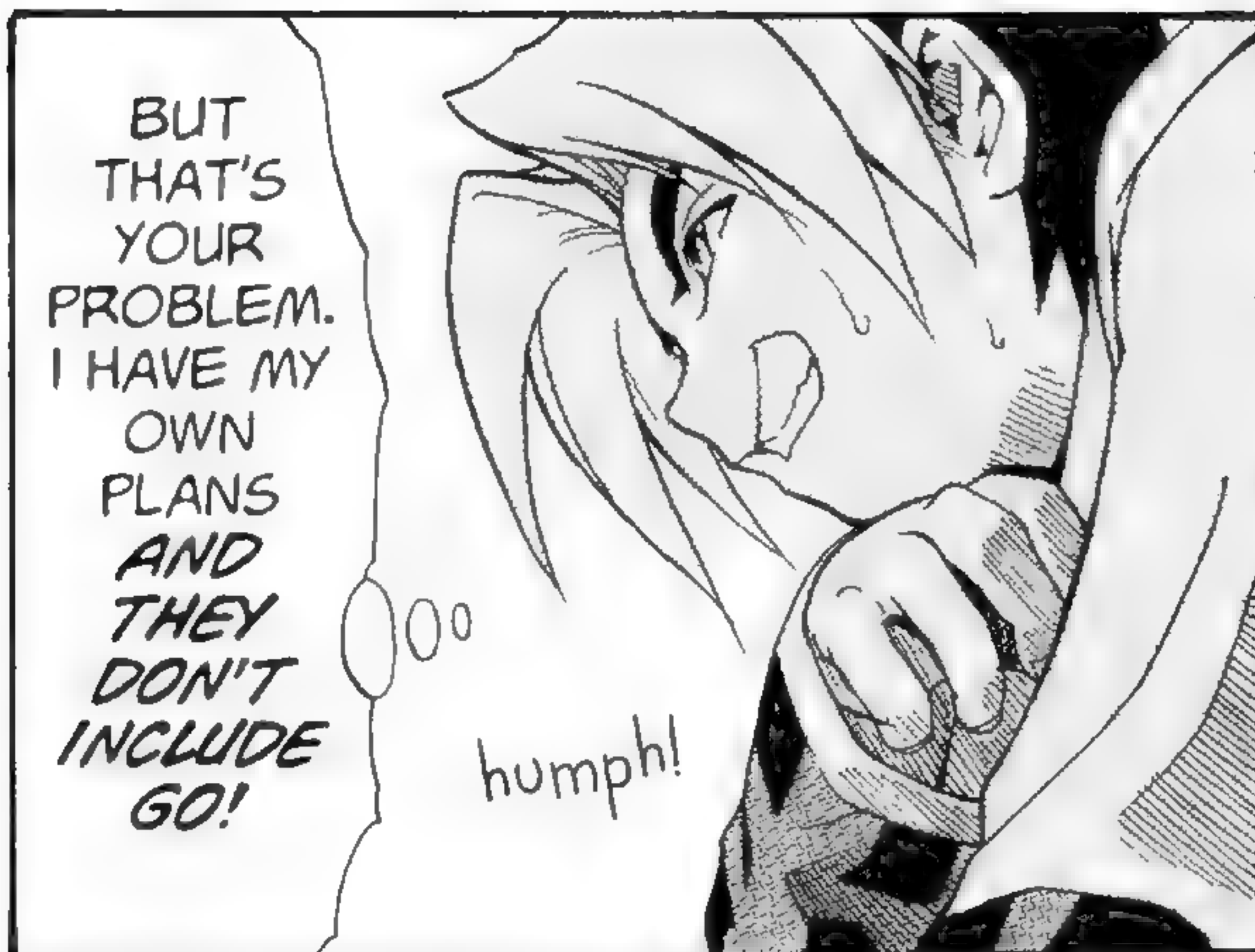




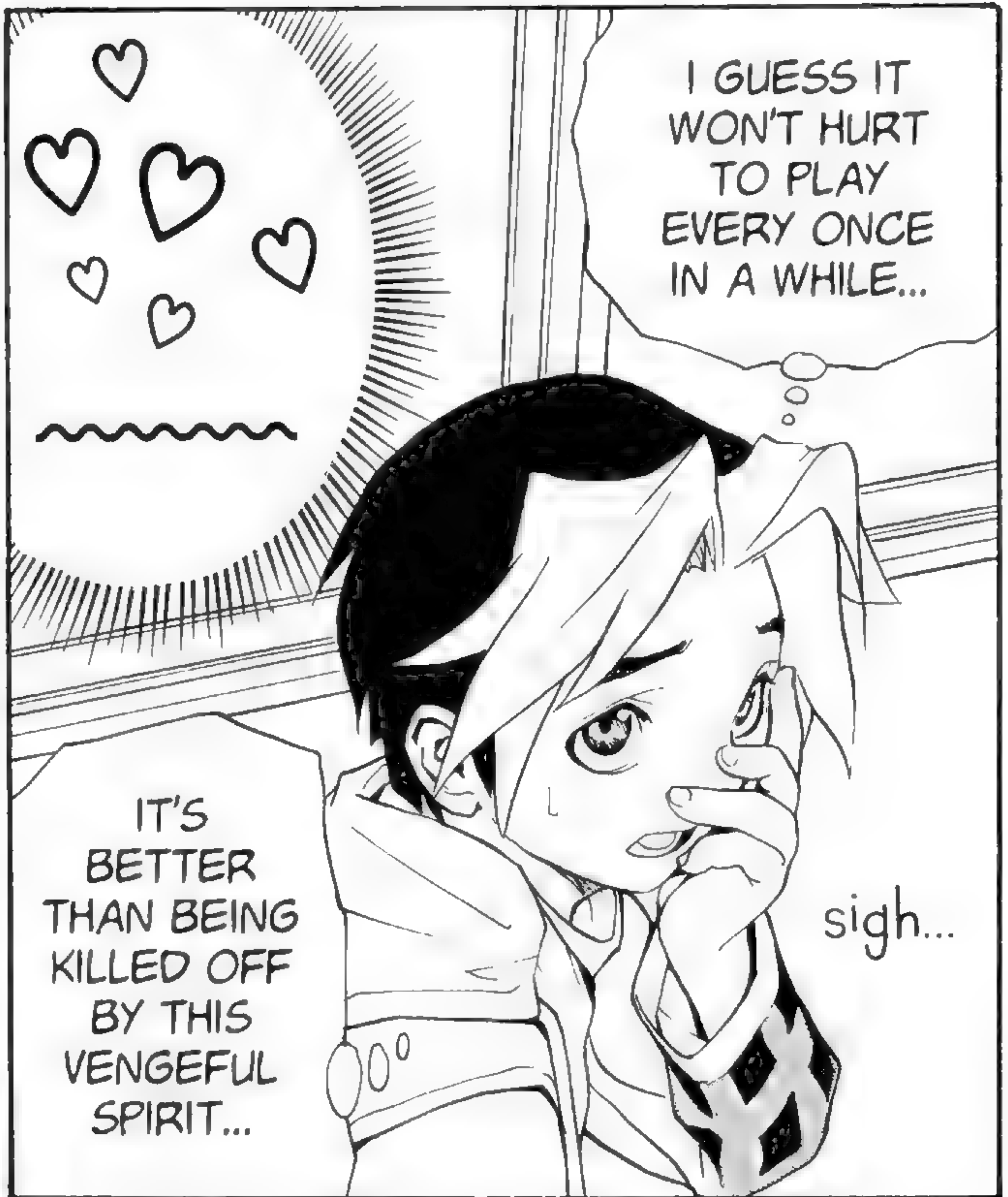




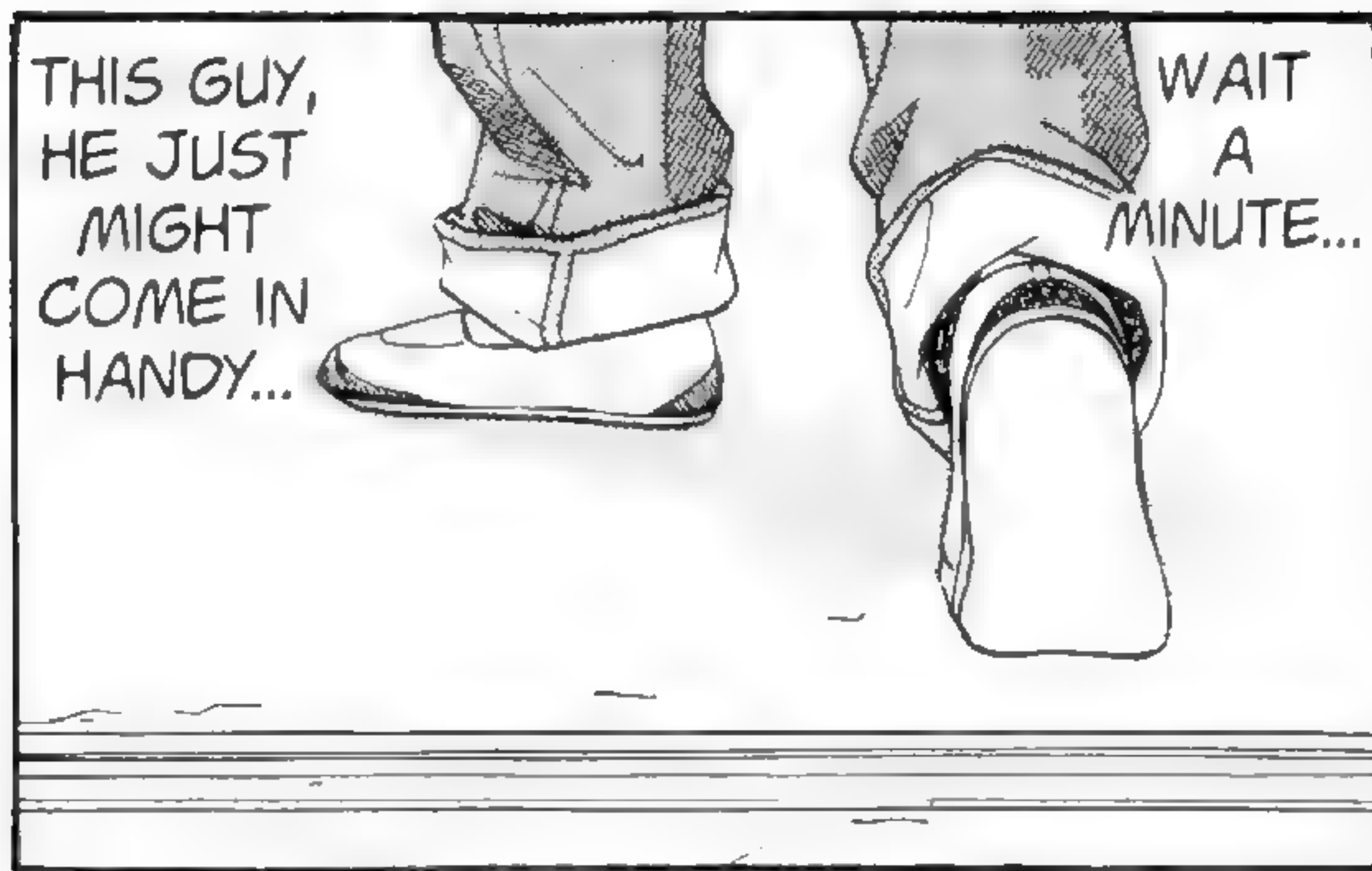




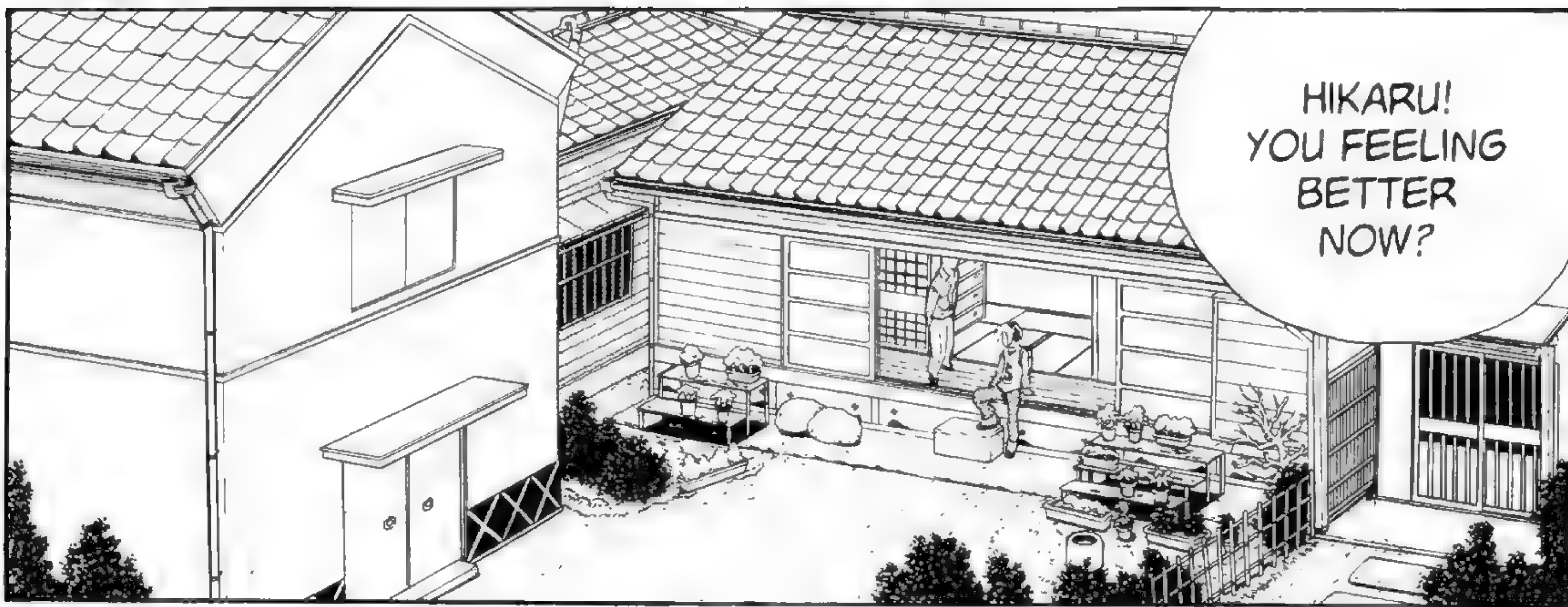












HIKARU!  
YOU FEELING  
BETTER  
NOW?



I'M ALL  
BETTER  
NOW!  
SEE?

flex!

YOU SURE  
DID GIVE ME  
A SCARE!

I WAS SO  
SHOCKED  
WHEN AKARI  
CAME DOWN  
AND SAID YOU  
HAD PASSED  
OUT!



WANNA  
PLAY?  
WINNER  
GETS A  
THOUSAND  
YEN!\*

I'M  
LEARN-  
ING HOW  
TO PLAY  
GO!



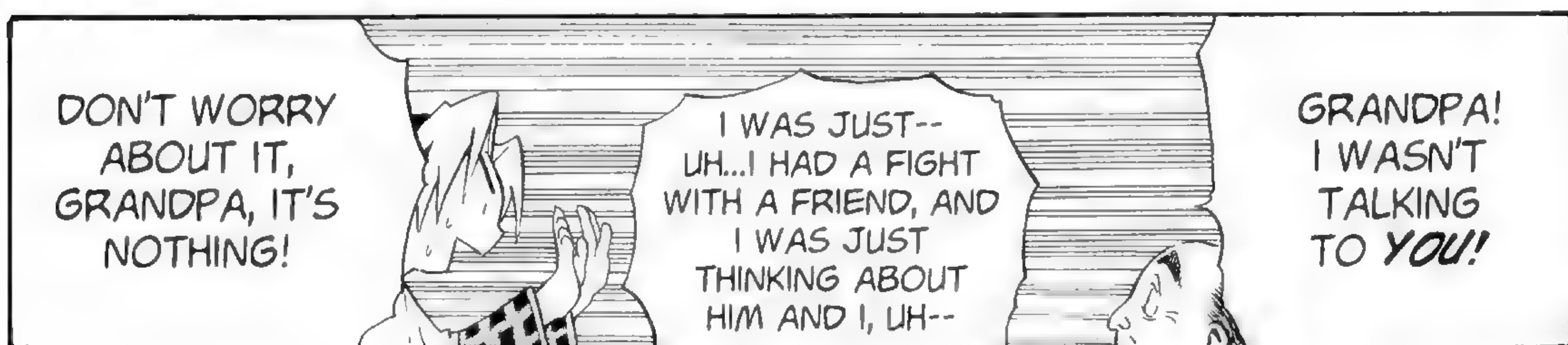
HEH  
HEH HEH...  
ACTUALLY...

SO, WHAT'S  
GOING ON?  
IF YOU CAME  
TO SEE  
GRANDMA,  
SHE'S OUT  
SHOPPING...

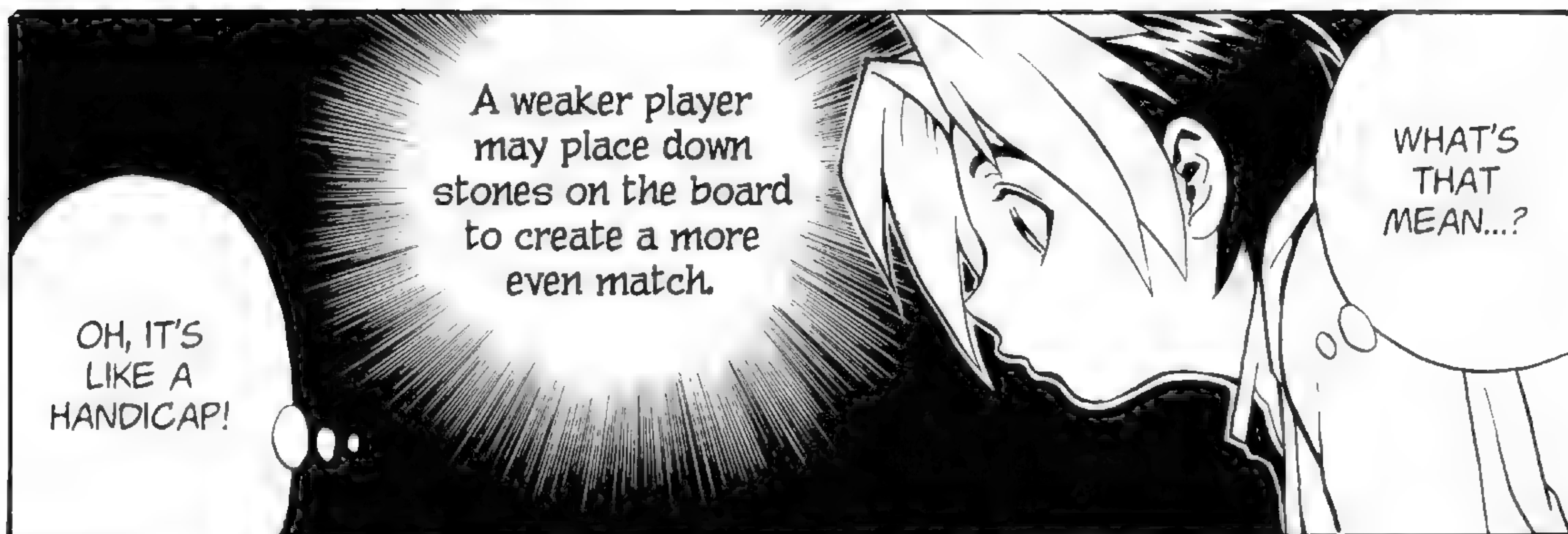












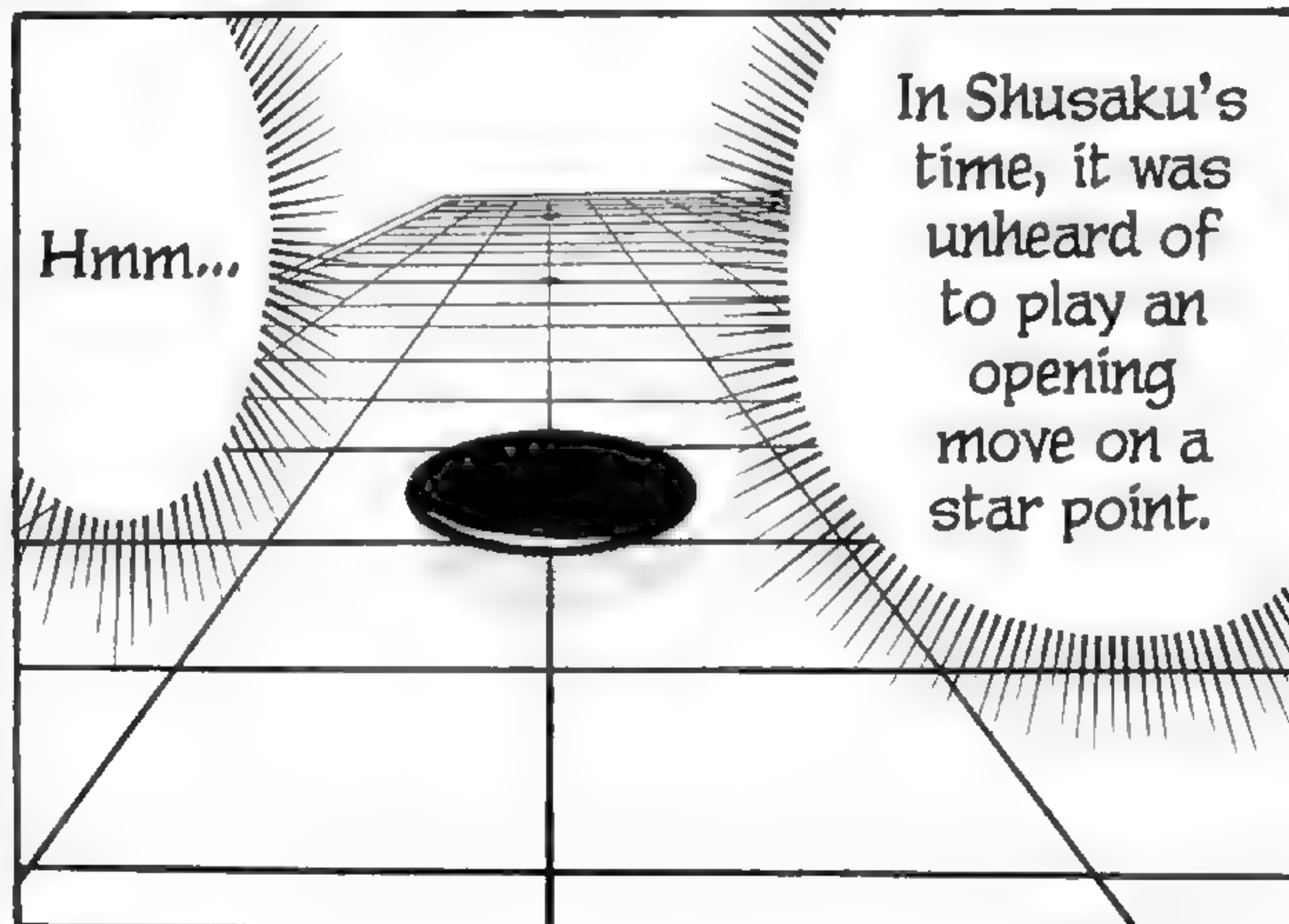
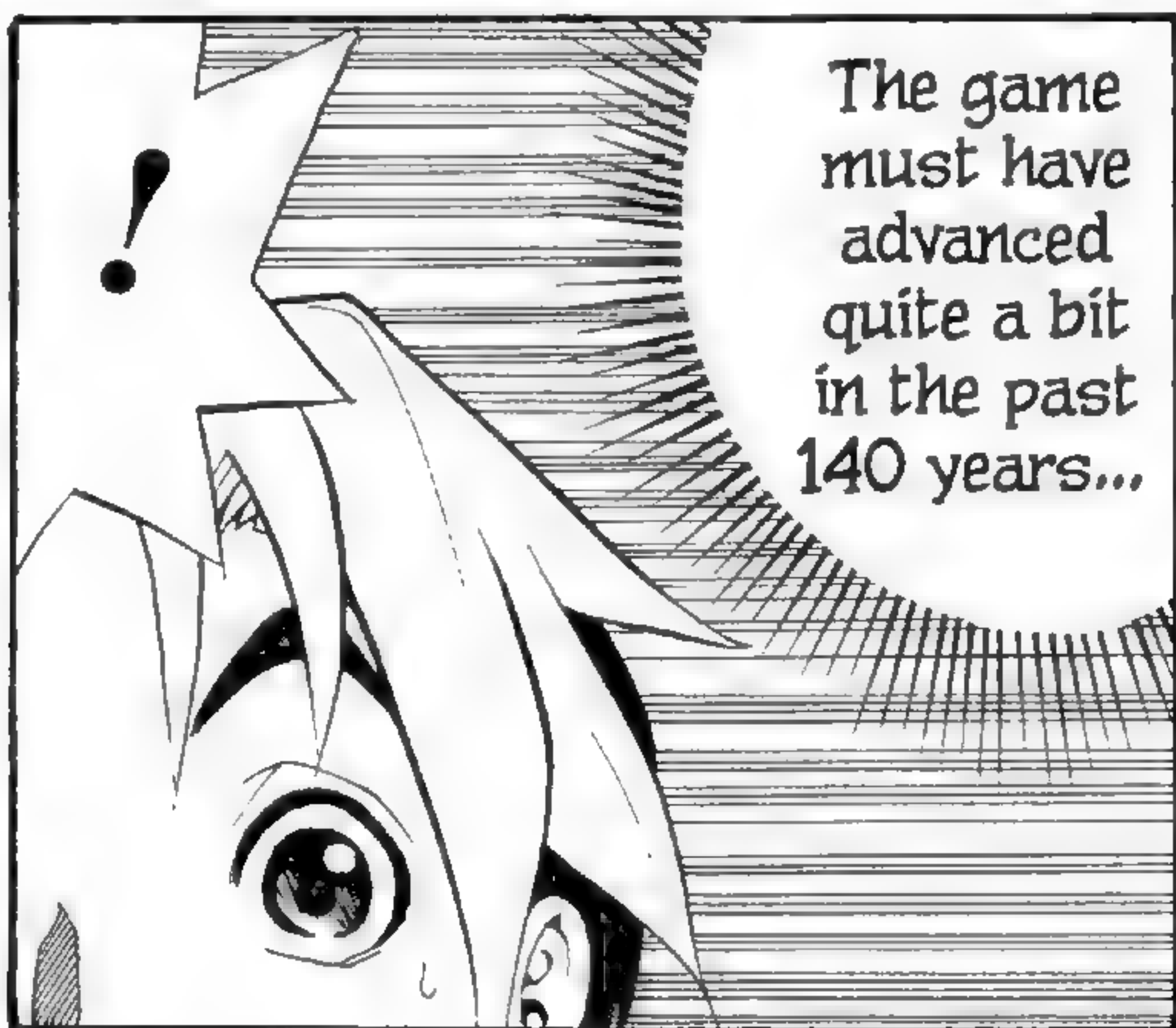
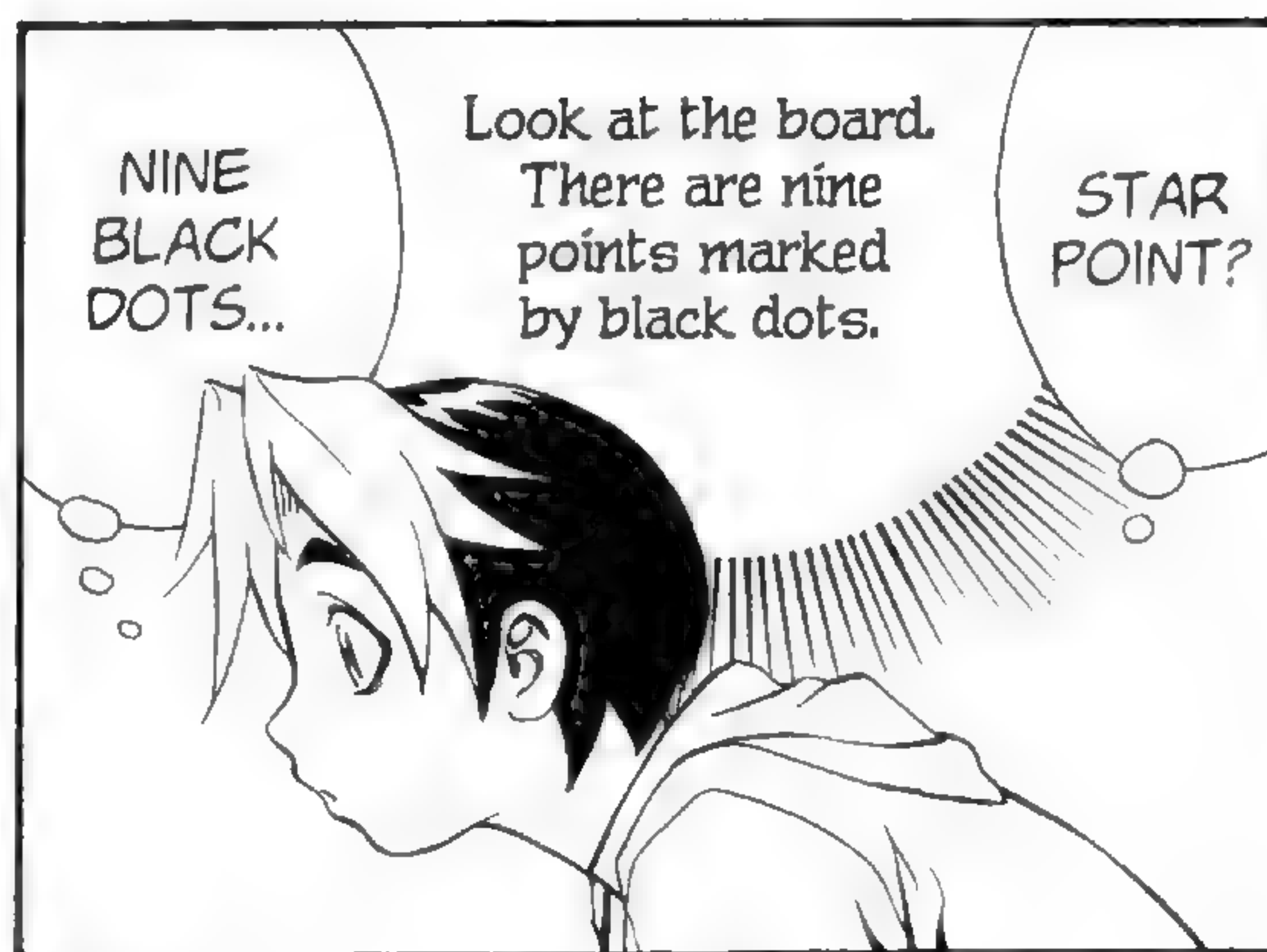
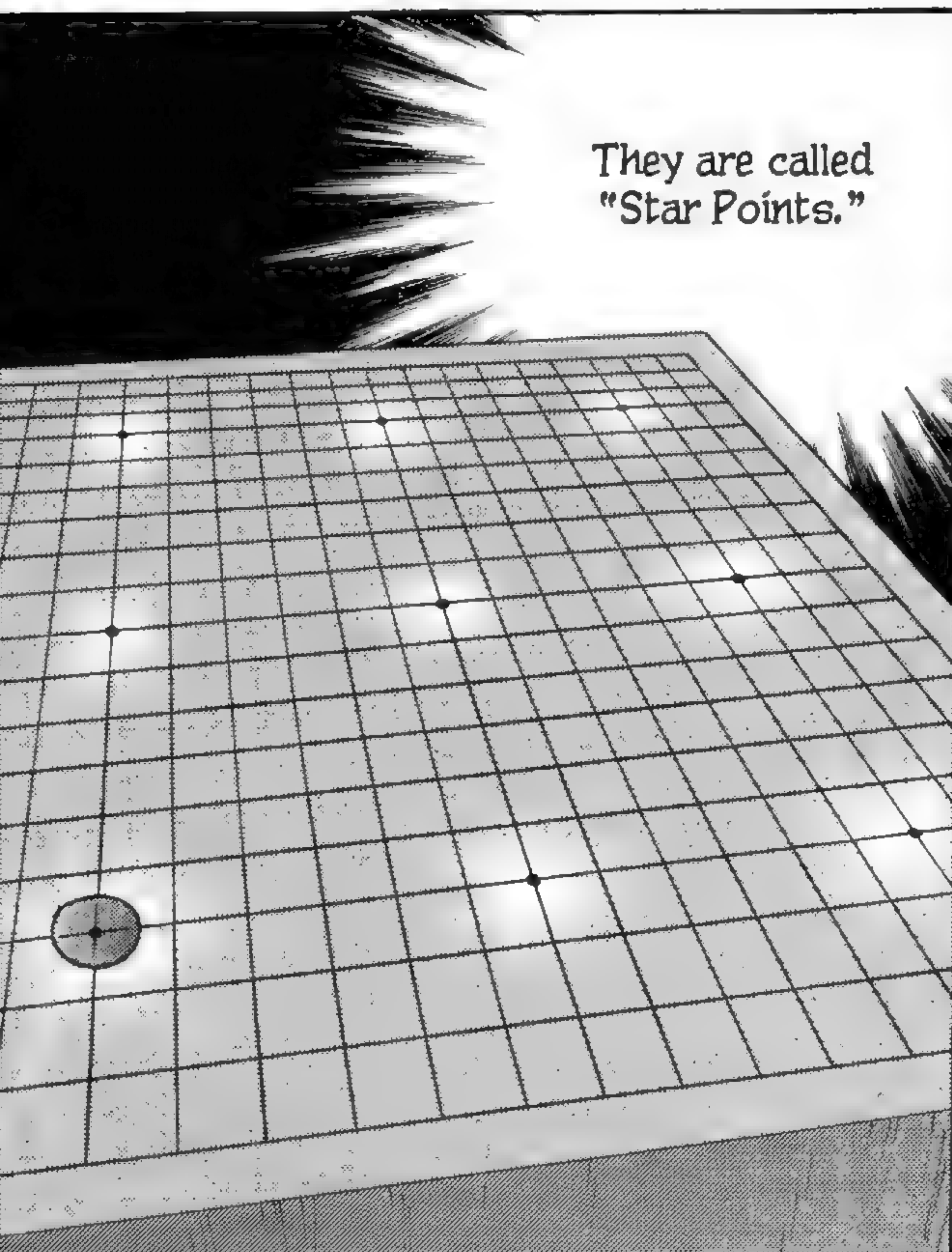
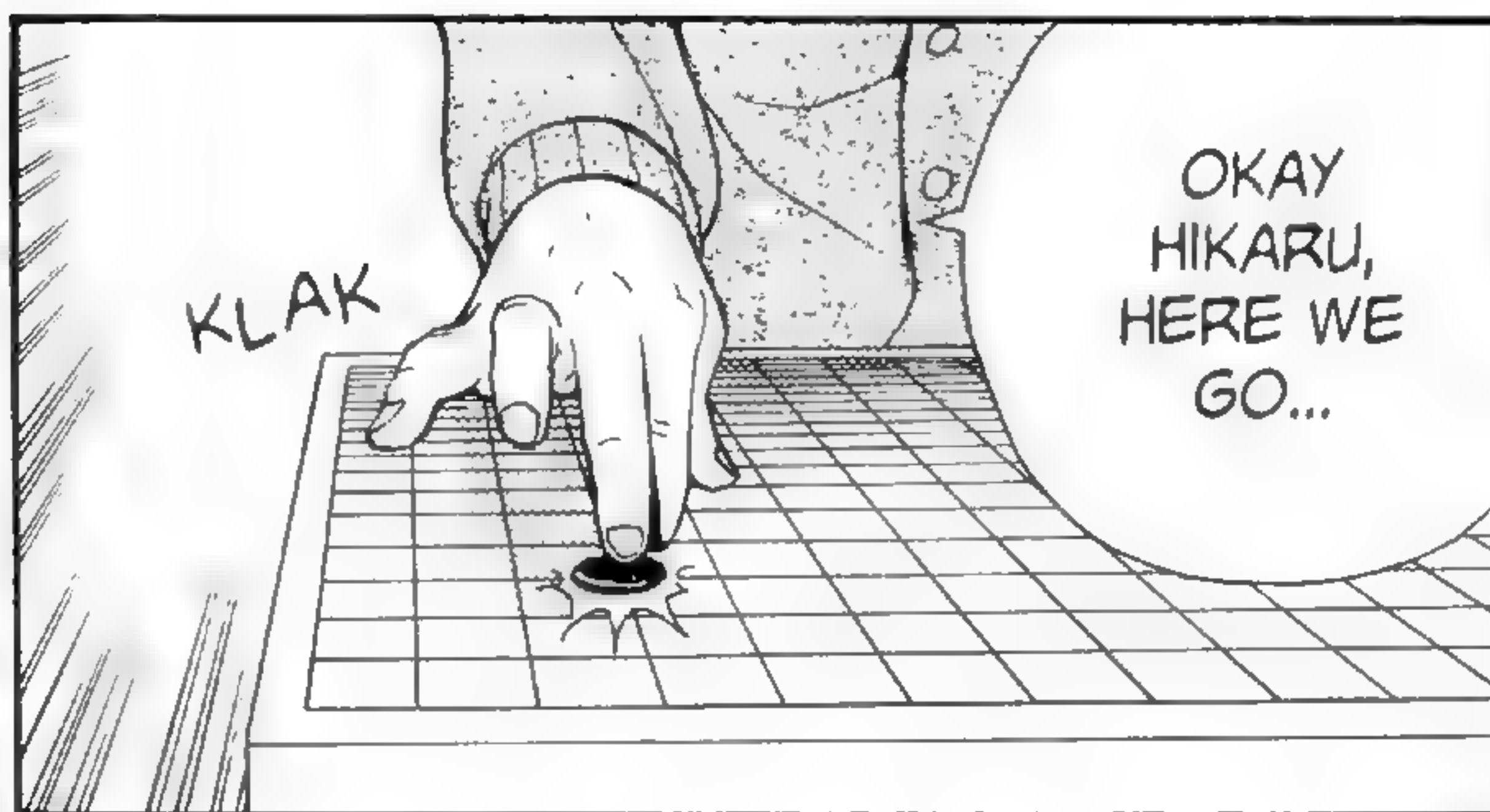
















WHAT'S  
WRONG HIKARU?  
HURRY UP AND  
MAKE YOUR  
MOVE!

UH-OH...



DARN! SAI  
HASN'T PLAYED  
IN 140 YEARS!

HE MIGHT'VE BEEN  
A GOOD PLAYER  
BACK IN THE EDO  
PERIOD, BUT CAN HE  
HOLD UP AGAINST  
A PLAYER FROM  
*MODERN TIMES*?!



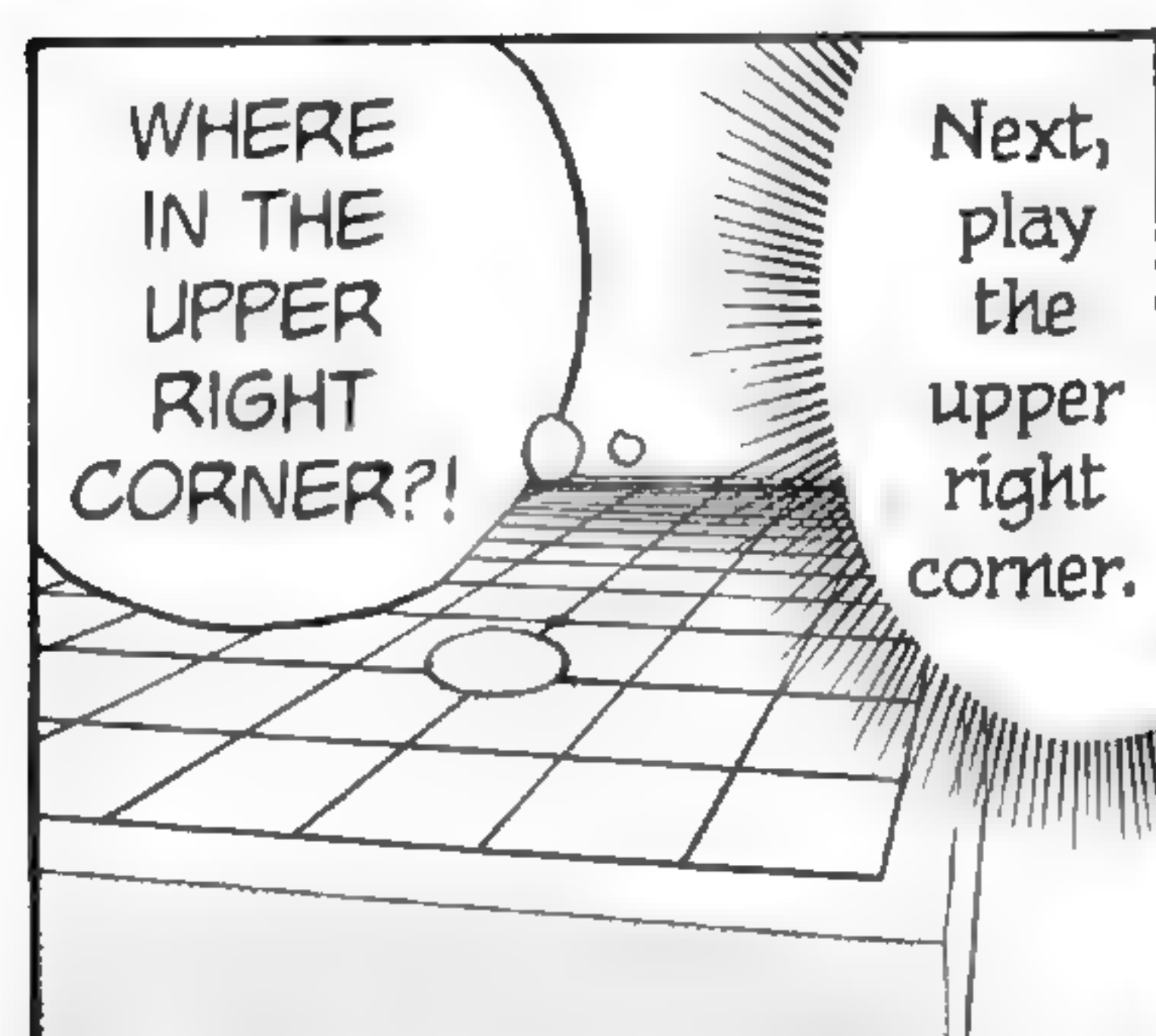
ONE  
POINT  
BELOW  
WHAT?!  
WHERE?!

It's  
one point  
directly  
below the  
lower right  
star point.



THE 3-4  
POINT?  
WHAT'S  
THAT?!

The 3-4  
point in the  
lower right  
corner...



WHERE  
IN THE  
UPPER  
RIGHT  
CORNER?!

Next,  
play the  
upper right  
corner.



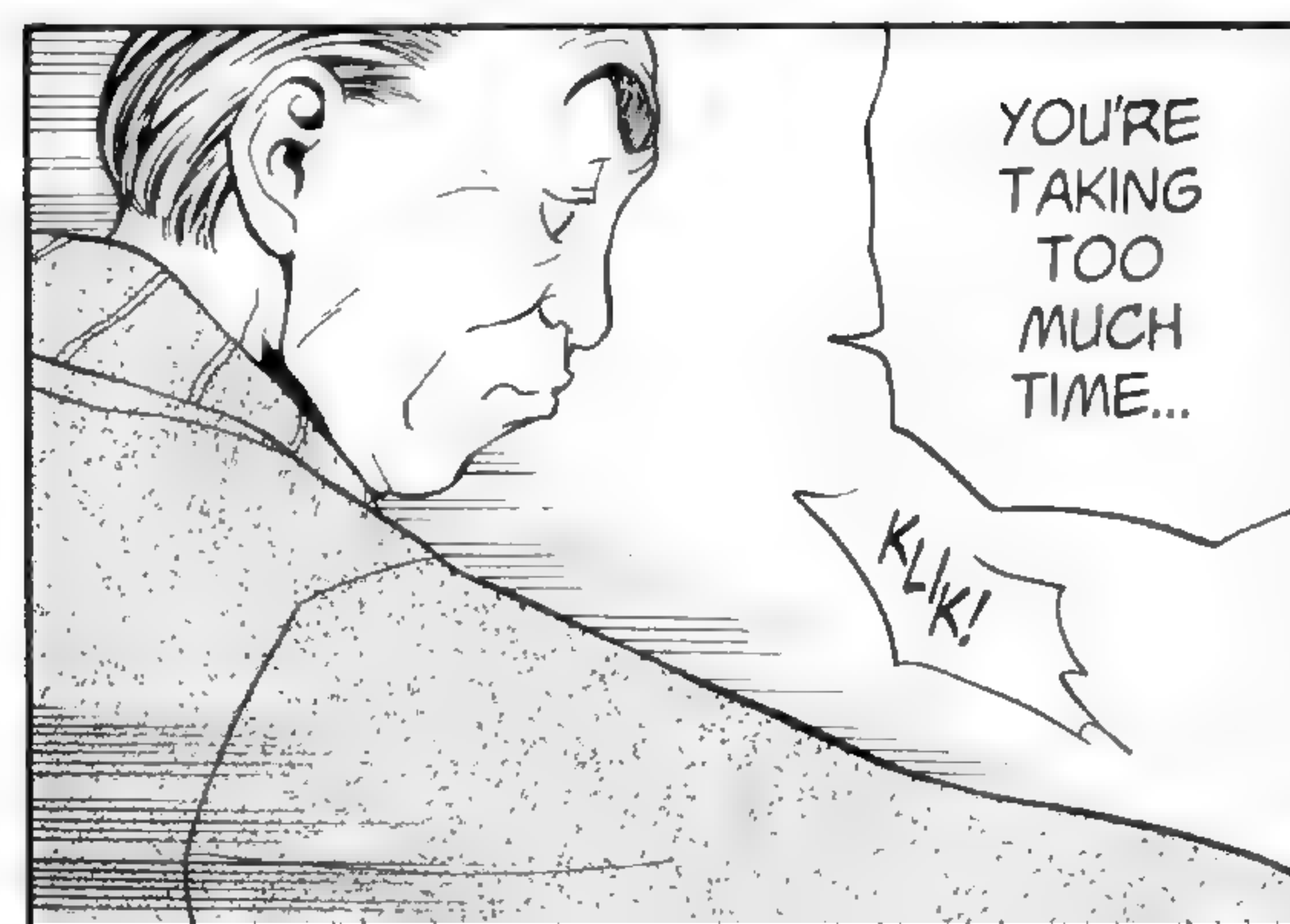
HURRY  
IT UP  
A BIT...

KLAK!



HERE...?

TNK



YOU'RE  
TAKING  
TOO  
MUCH  
TIME...

KLAK!

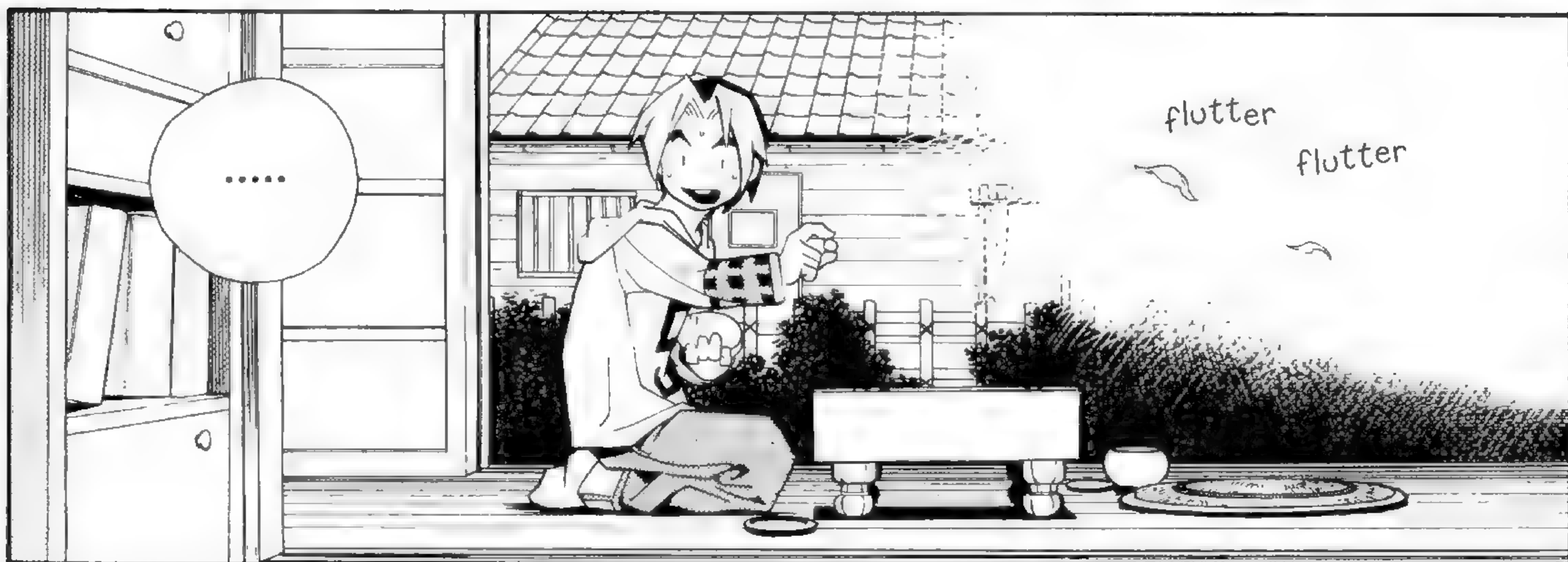


...ABOVE  
THE STAR  
POINT...  
UM... HERE?

TNK

Play the  
3-4 point.  
This time,  
above the  
star point.











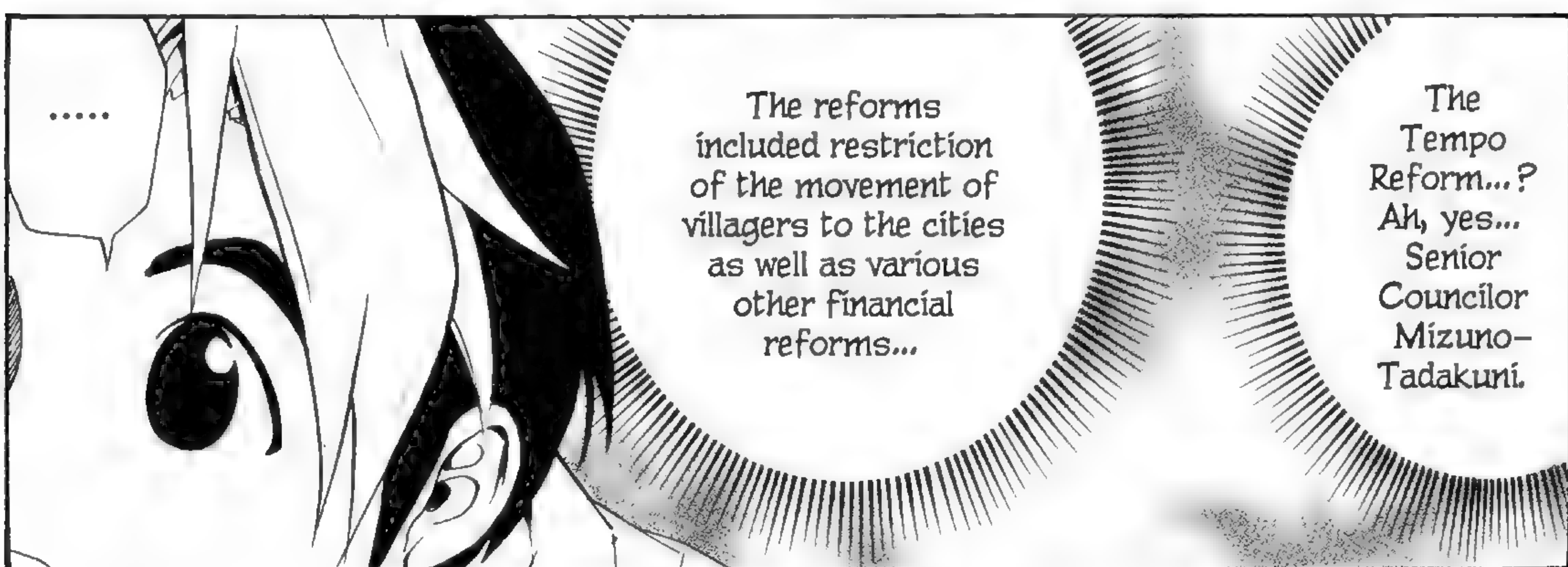


YOU WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE TEMPO REFORM, WOULD YOU?



I'VE GOT TO MAKE ALL THESE CORRECTIONS TO MY SOCIAL STUDIES TEST BY TOMORROW.

I'M THE ONE THAT SHOULD BE CRYING!



.....

The reforms included restriction of the movement of villagers to the cities as well as various other financial reforms...

The Tempo Reform...? Ah, yes... Senior Councilor Mizuno-Tadakuni.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW, SAI? YOU MIGHT BE OF SOME USE TO ME, AFTER ALL...

GOT IT-- URAGA BAY...



OKAY, THANKS. THAT'S ENOUGH.

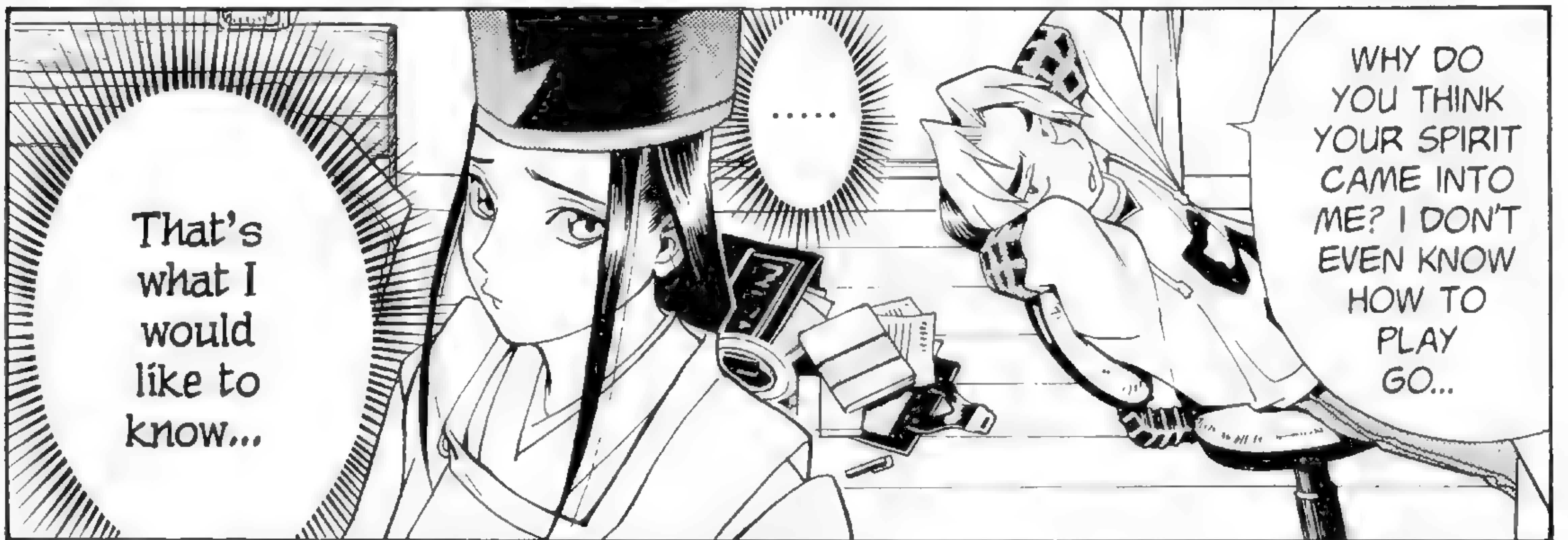
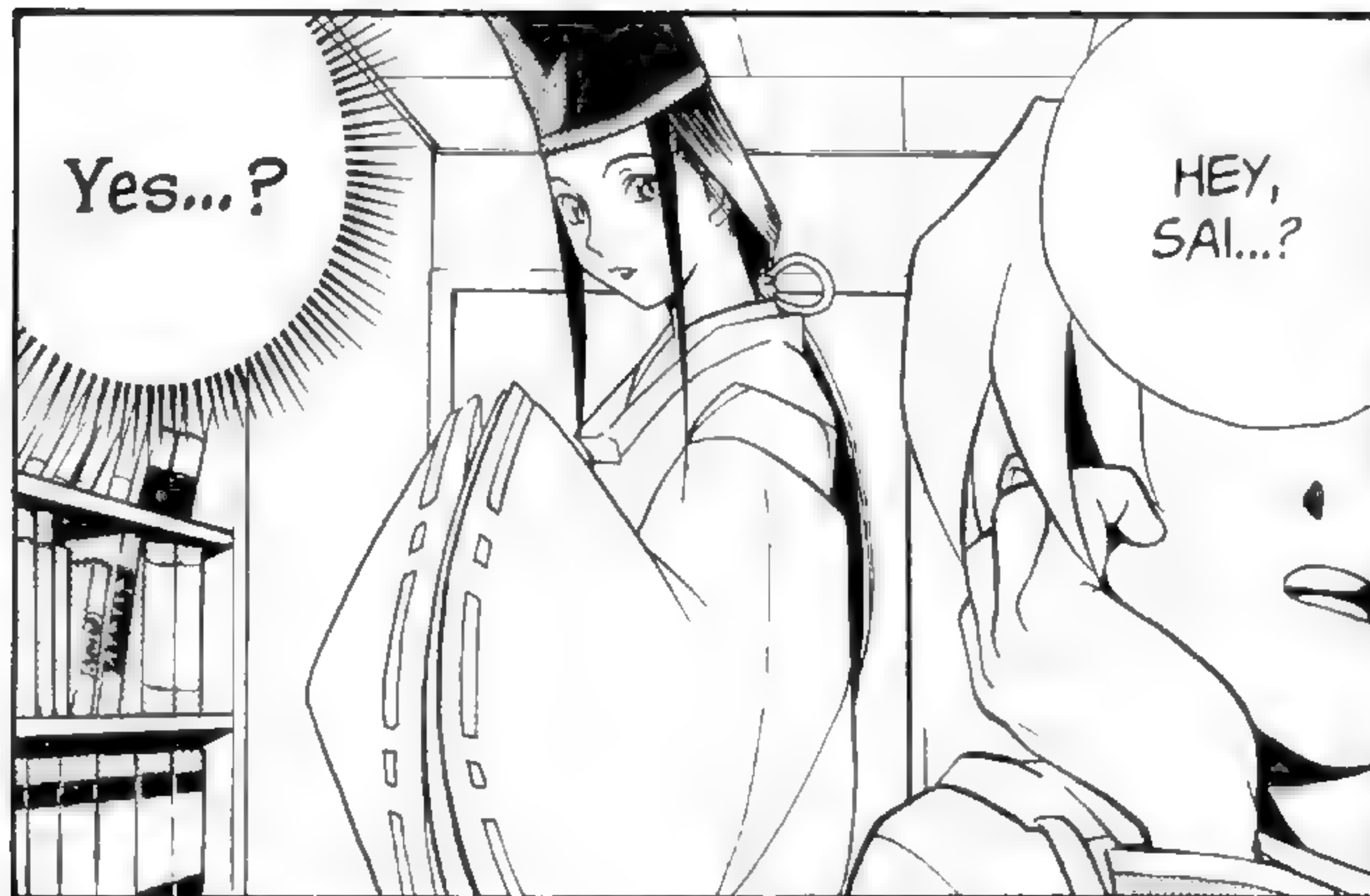
Once, while I was visiting the castle, he--



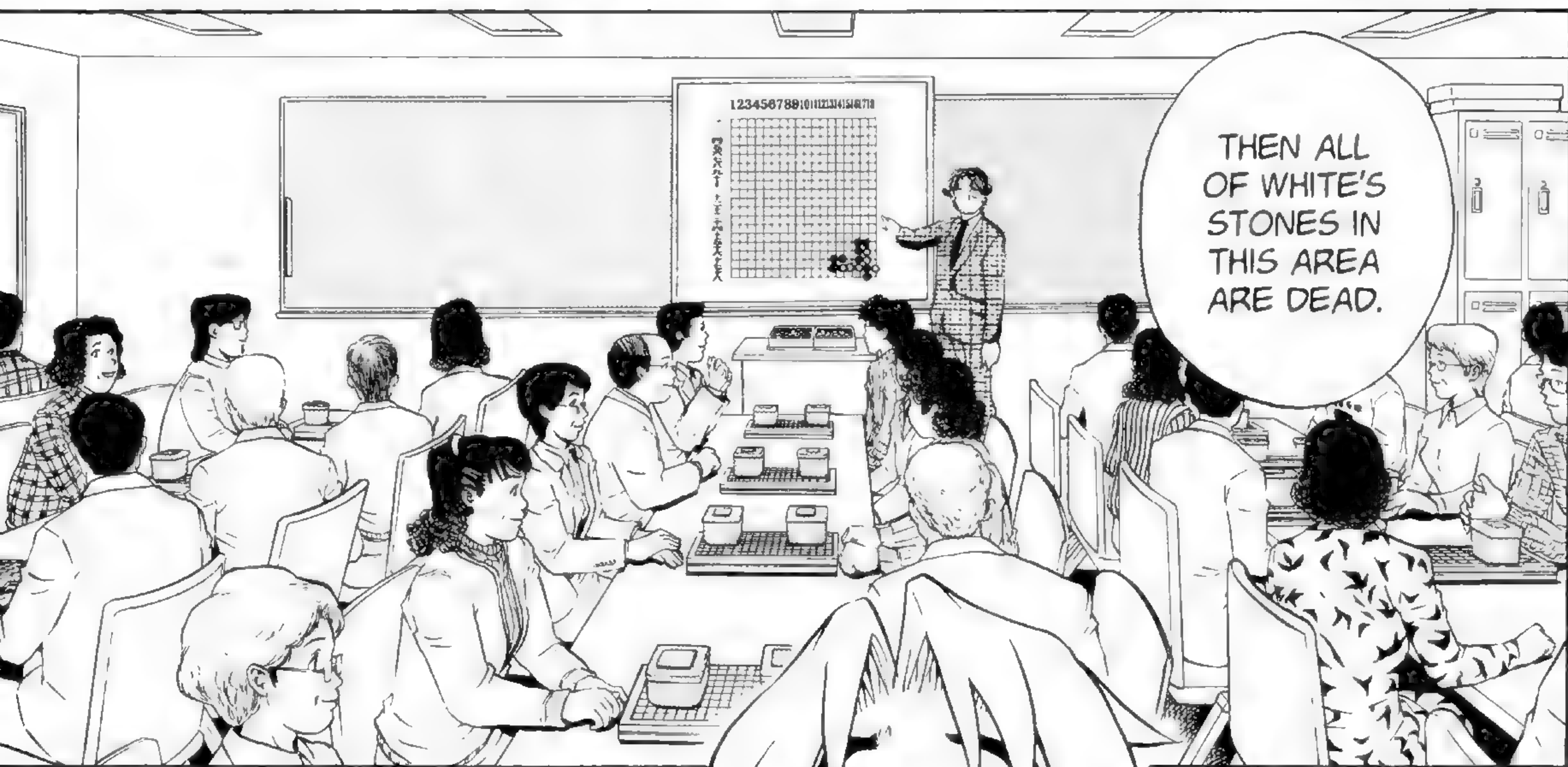
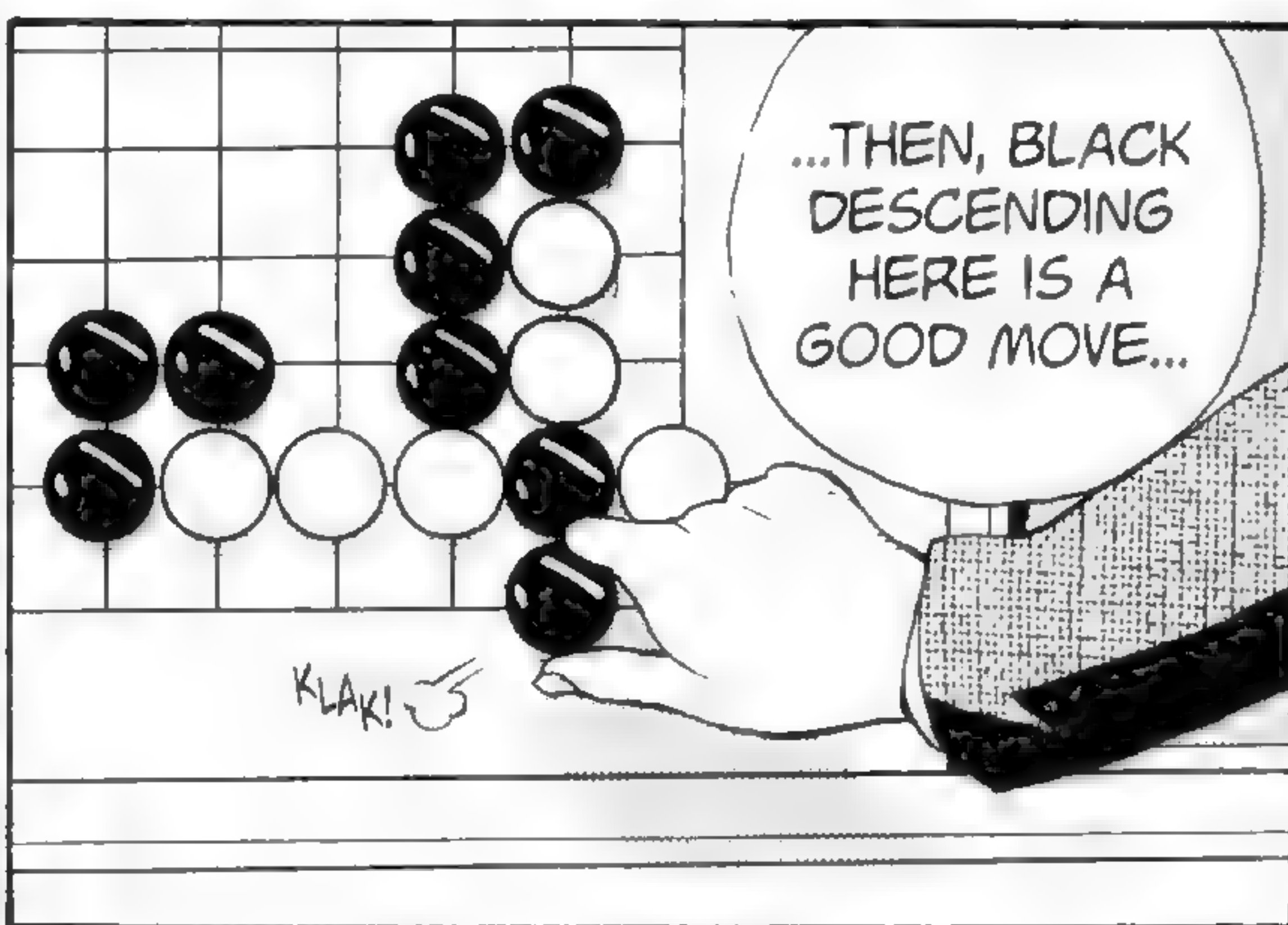
He came into Uruga Bay with four warships...

WHERE DID PERRY SAIL INTO?

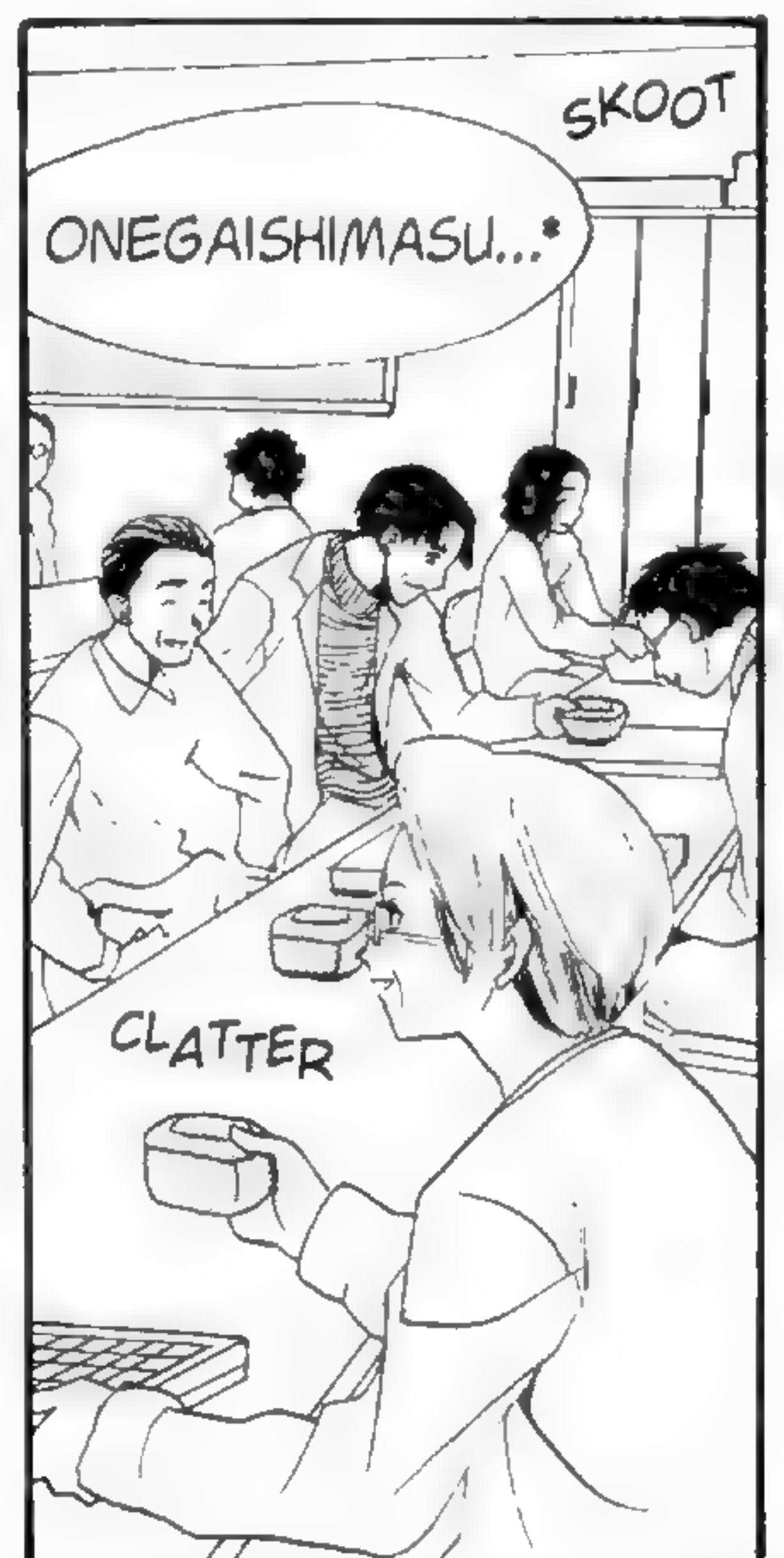
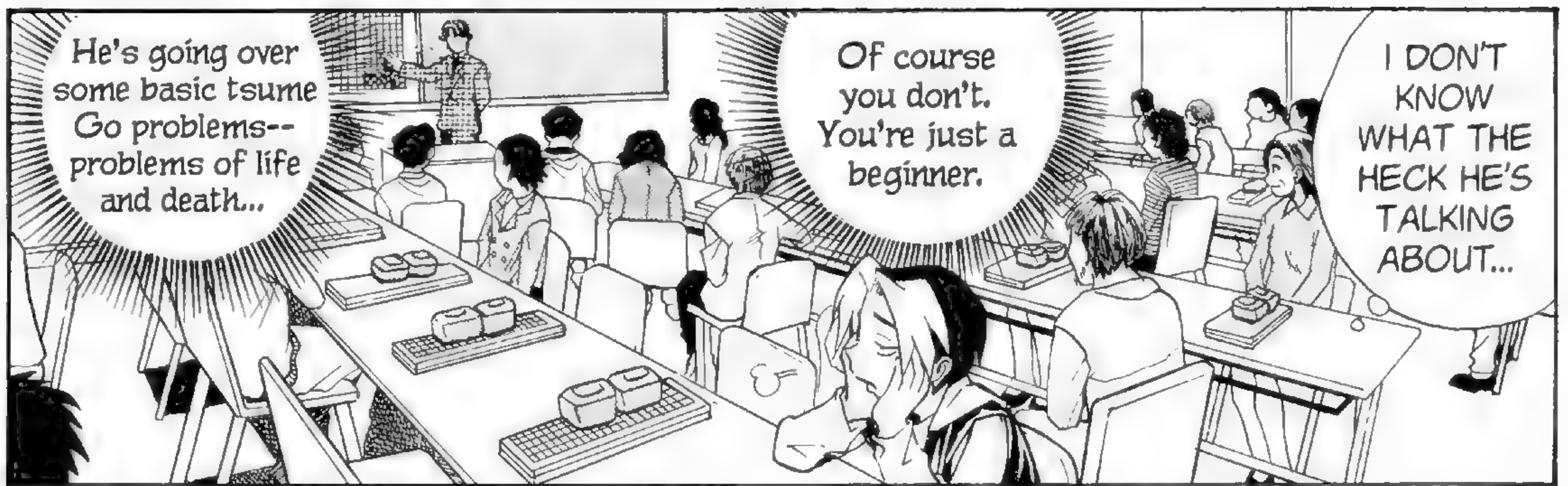






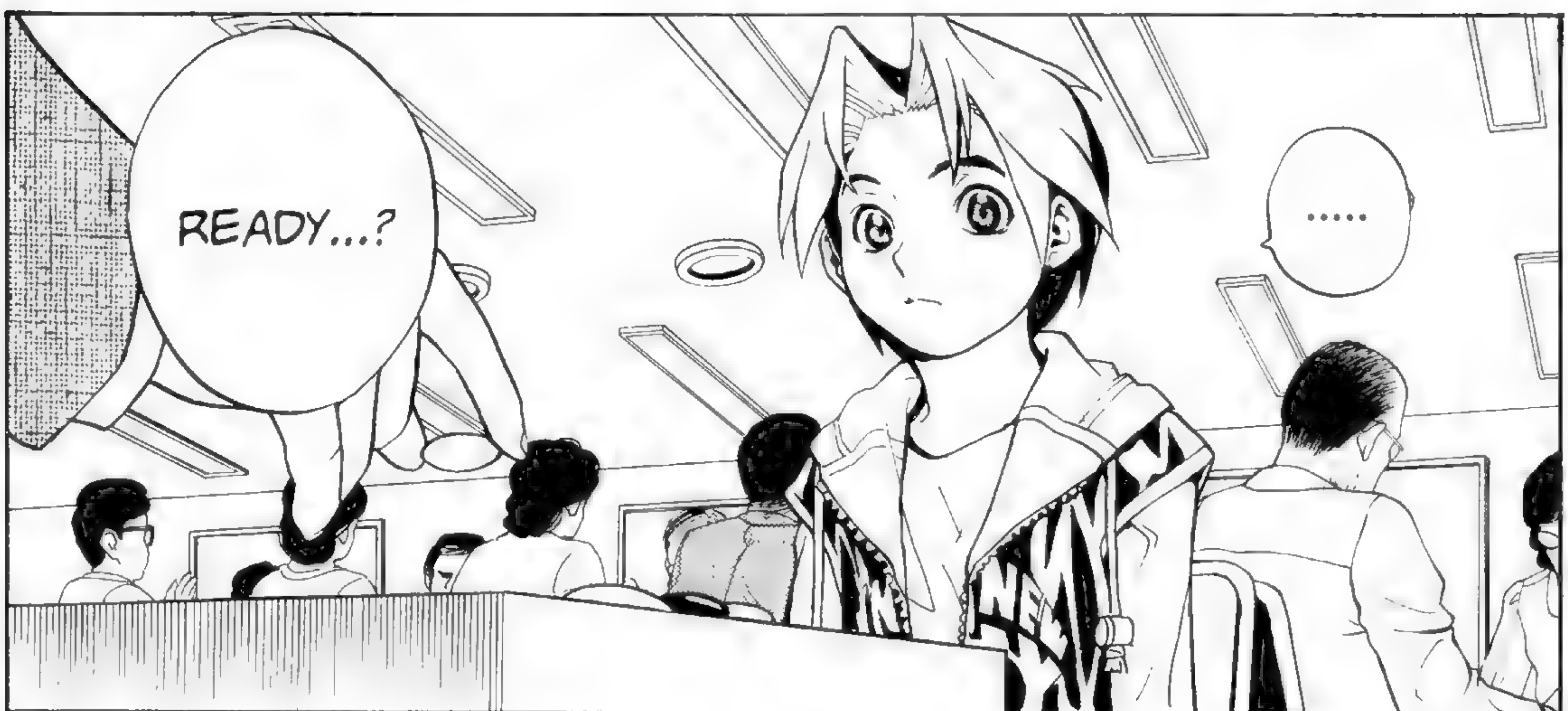






\*Onegaishimasu: a standard greeting to one's opponent before starting a game. Also, literally meaning, "to make a request."

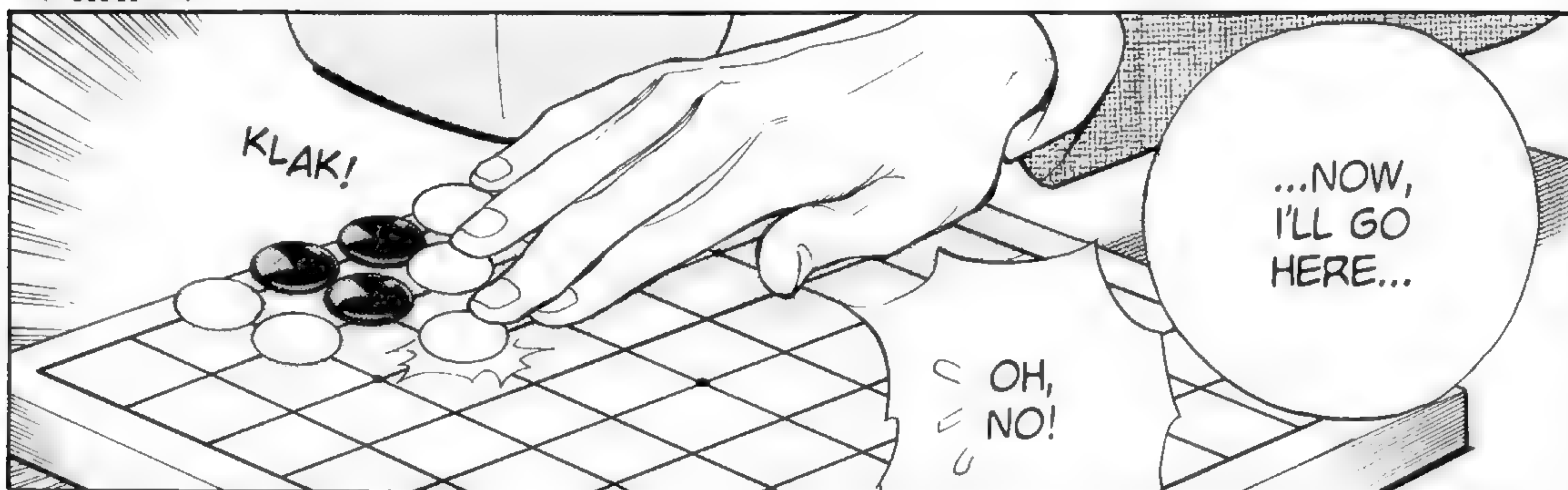
















But, he's playing a horrible game.

The man who just played. He's a lot better than his opponent...



He's taking advantage of his weaker opponent by being over-aggressive and confusing him.







I will play in  
his stead!

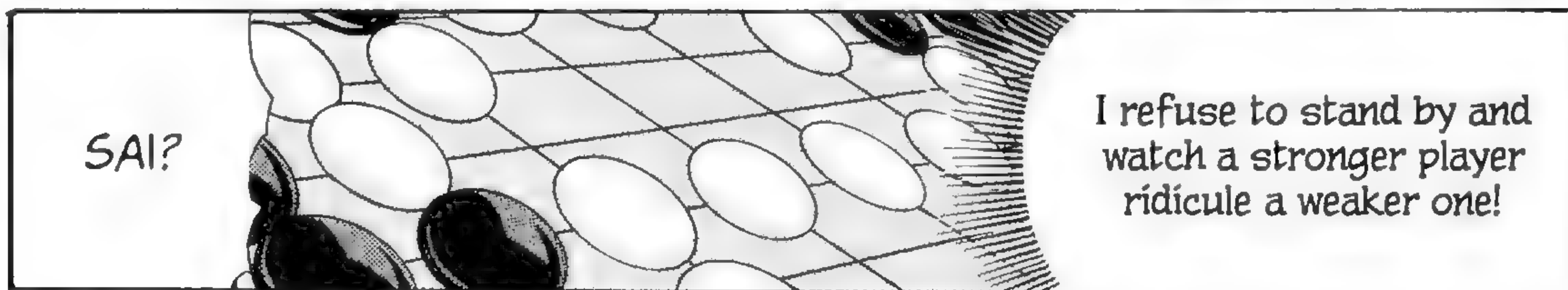
Trade  
places  
with the  
weaker  
player!



Hikaru,  
trade  
places  
with his  
oppo-  
nent!

I can't  
take  
this any  
more...

HUH?



SAI?

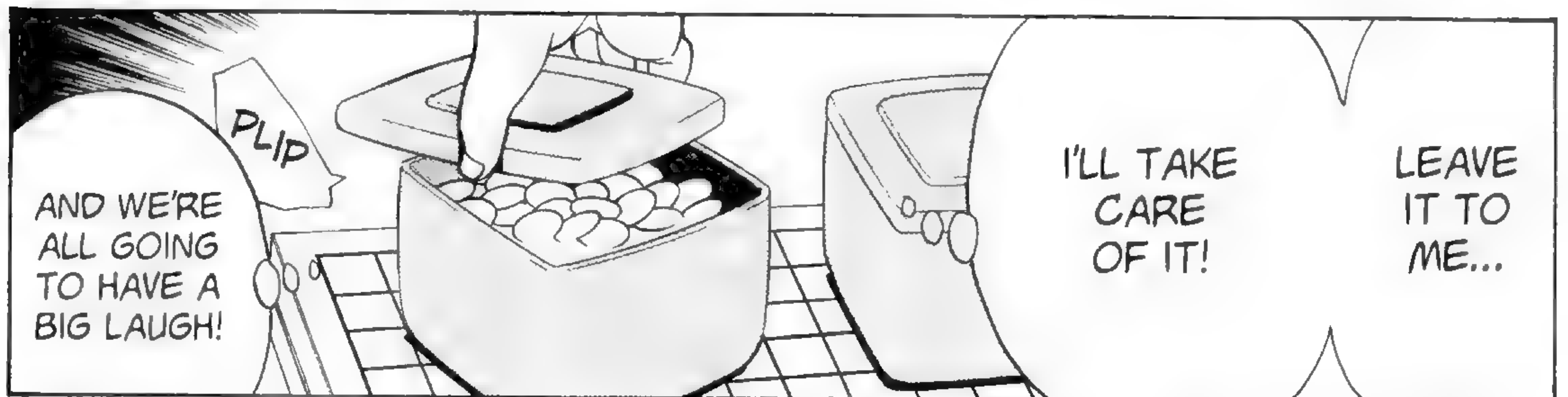
I refuse to stand by and  
watch a stronger player  
ridicule a weaker one!



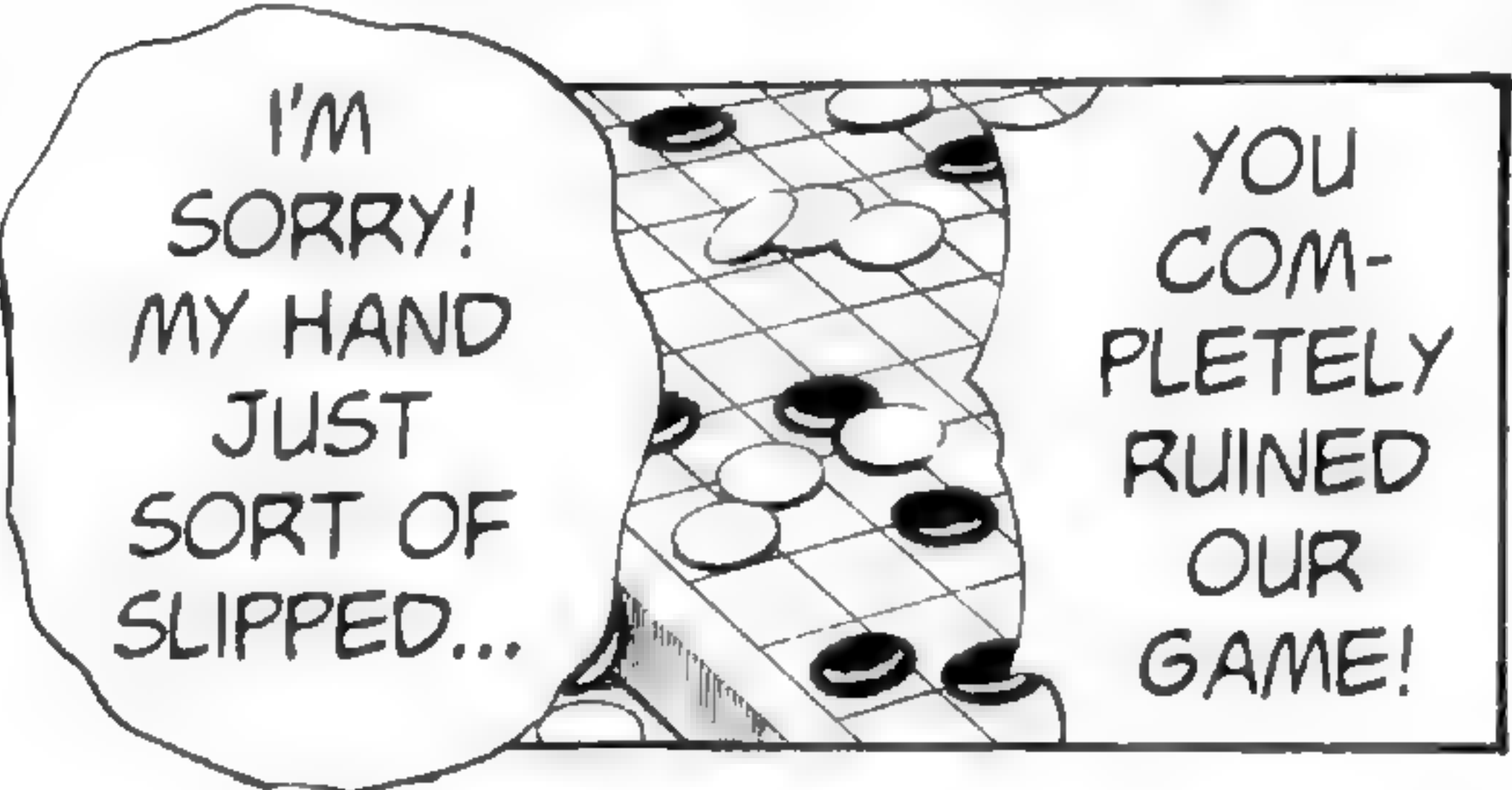
Then,  
he'll know  
how it feels  
to be on the  
receiving  
end of such  
cruel play!

I am  
going to  
teach this  
man a lesson!  
I'm going to  
completely  
overwhelm  
him...

























AMONGST  
THE  
YOUNGER  
PLAYERS...

KURATA 4  
DAN AND  
OGATA 9 DAN  
ARE PROBABLY  
THE BEST

TOYA MEIJIN,  
WHO HOLDS  
3 TITLES, IS  
CURRENTLY THE  
BEST PLAYER  
AROUND.



HON'INBO-  
SHUSAKU  
FROM THE  
EDO PERIOD  
IS THE BEST  
PLAYER OF  
ALL TIME.



BUT AS TO  
WHO THE BEST  
**EVER** GO  
PLAYER THERE  
WAS--THAT GO  
PLAYER'S  
ANSWER WAS  
UNEQUIVOCALLY  
CLEAR.



HIKARU AT THE STORY-BOARD STAGE.

Whoa!

OBATA SENSEI DOES THE CHARACTER DESIGNS AND ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THIS MANGA. SO YOU MIGHT BE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED FOR THE STORYBOARDS BEFORE THE CHARACTERS WERE DESIGNED. WELL, I DREW THEM MYSELF!

# HIKARU NO GO

## STORYBOARDS

①

YUMI HOTTA

AFTER THAT, I BEGAN TRYING TO IMITATE OBATA SENSEI'S CHARACTER DESIGNS.

I TRIED TO DO IT WITH ALL THE CHARACTERS.

Highlights?

AFTER FINISHING SEVERAL INSTALLMENTS, I RECEIVED A COPY OF OBATA SENSEI'S FINISHED ARTWORK IN THE MAIL.

I TRY TO IMITATE THE ARTWORK, BUT MINE END UP LOOKING LIKE THIS.

SAI WAS ALSO EASY, VERY SIMILAR TO MY STORYBOARD VERSION.

HIKARU WAS EASY.

I COULDN'T TELL IF I WAS ACTUALLY DOING ANY WORK ON WRITING THE STORY ANYMORE...

IT WAS QUITE FRUSTRATING!

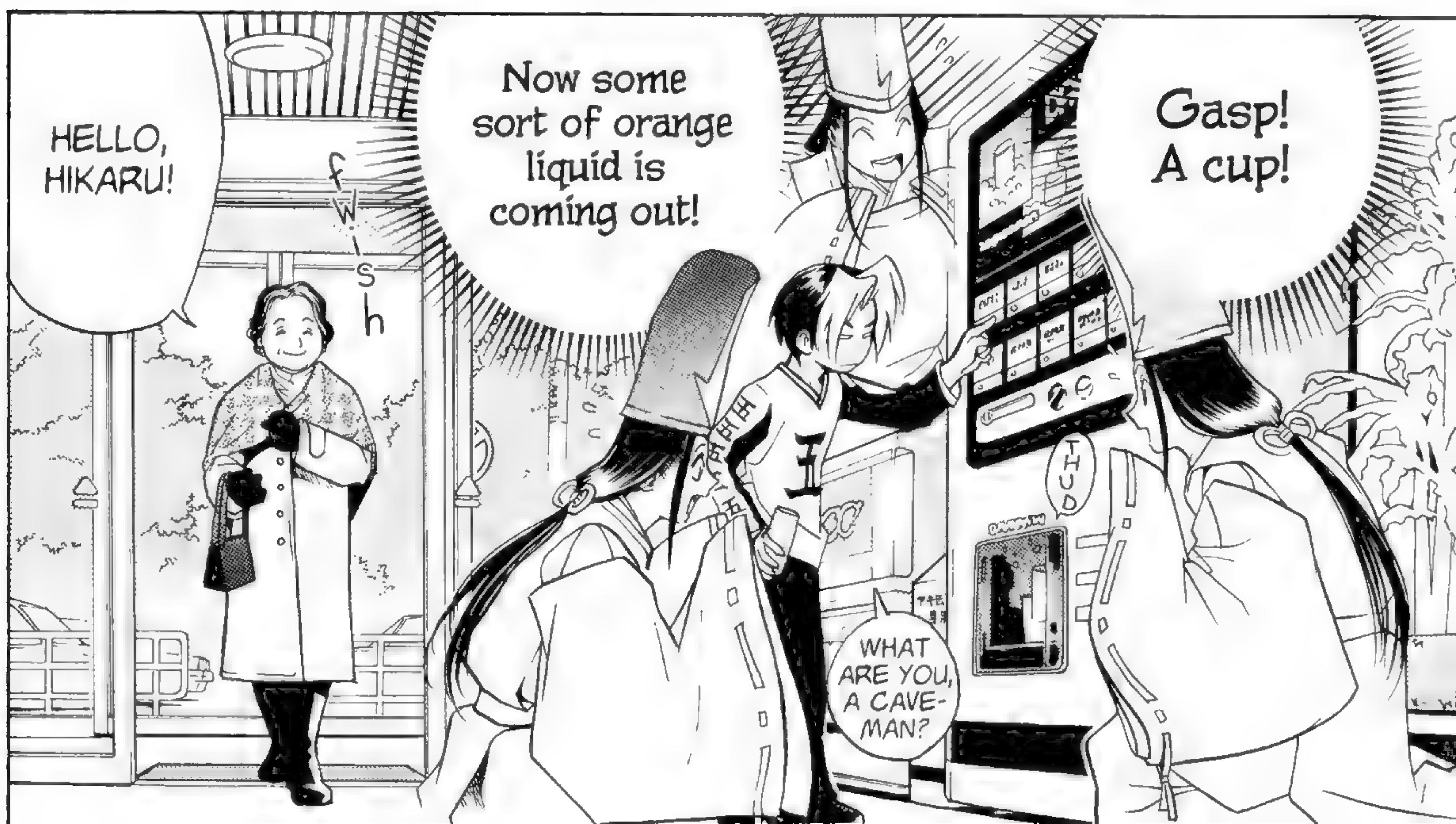
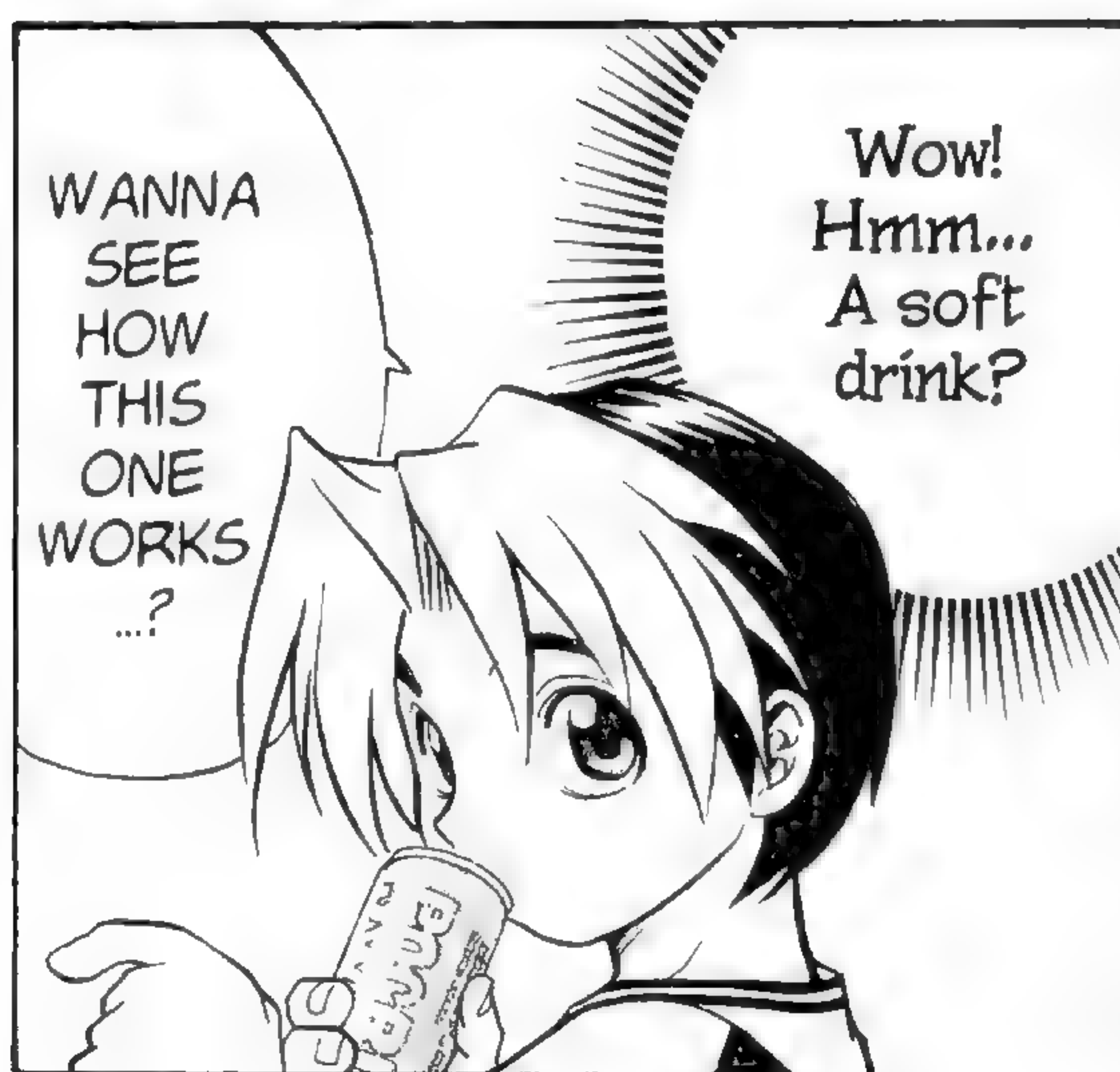
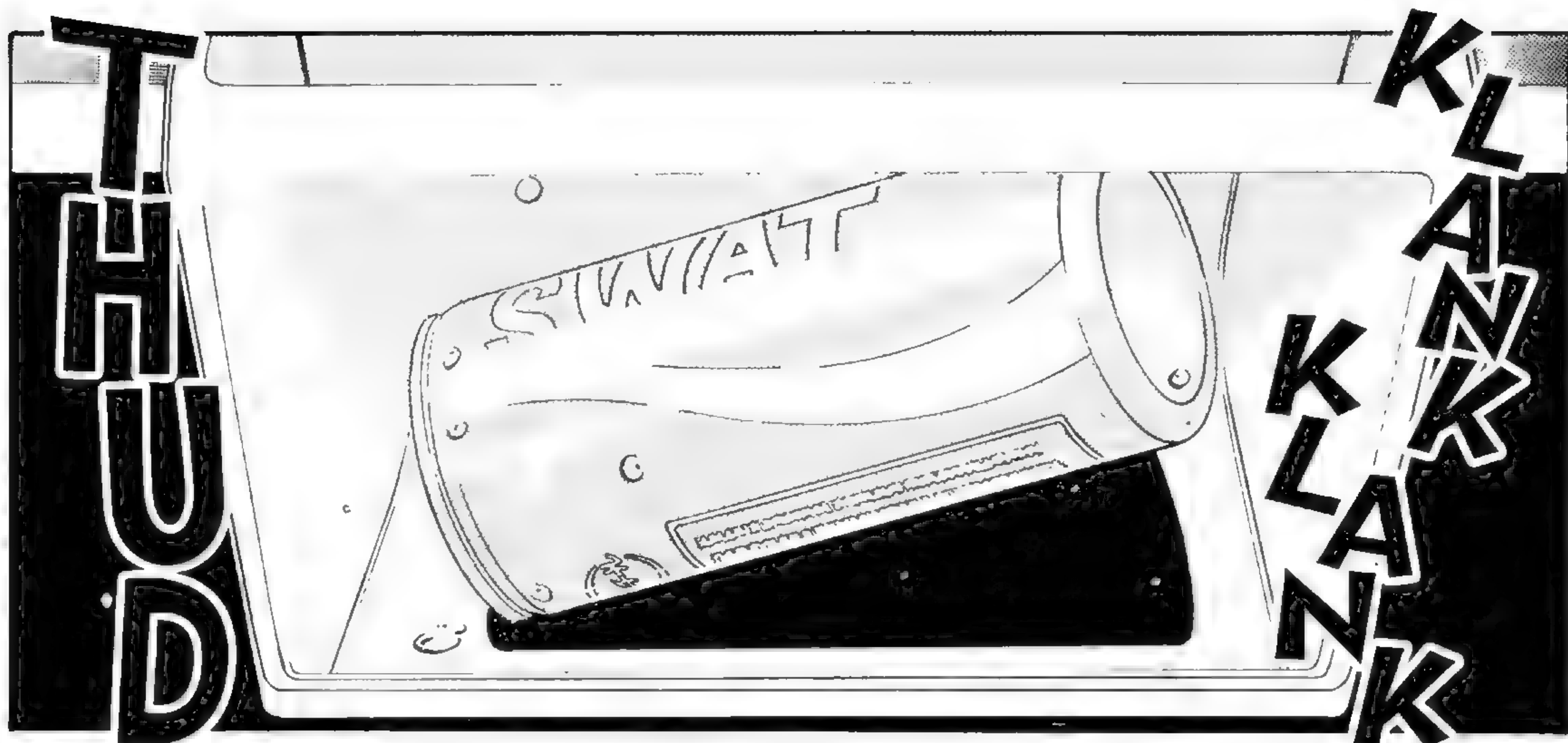
AKIRA TOYA WAS DIFFICULT. I KEPT DRAWING AND ERASING, DRAWING AND ERASING.



Game 2  
"From a  
Level Beyond"









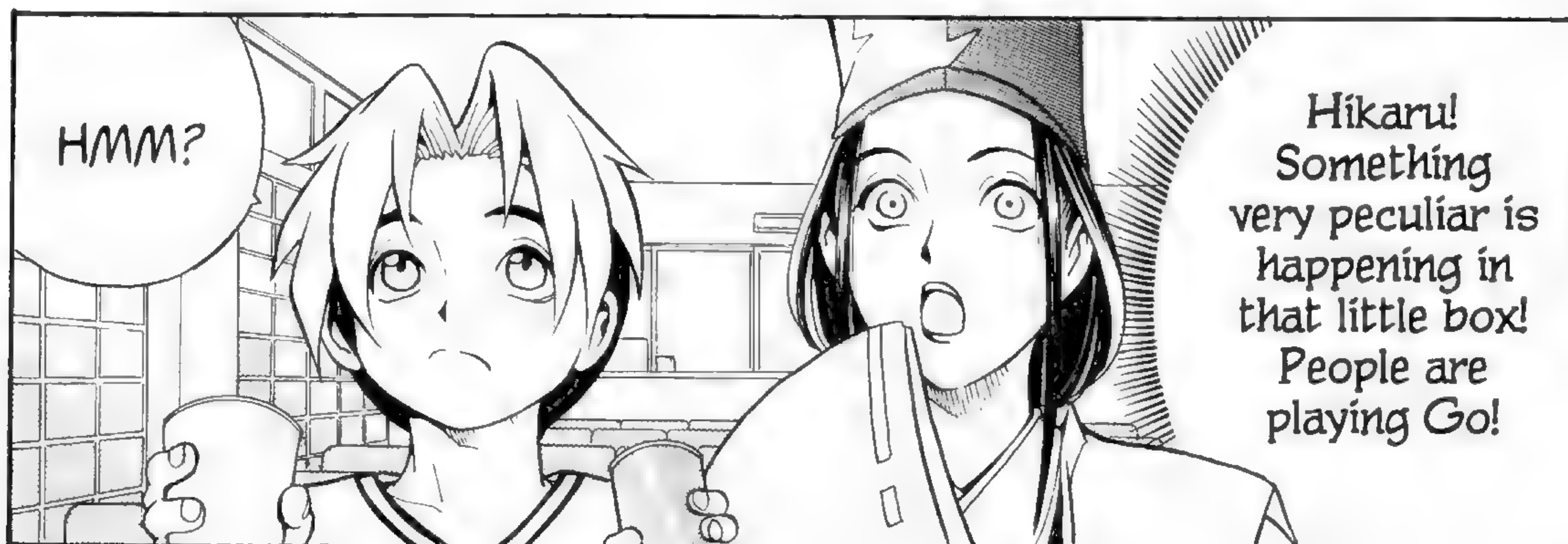


THAT'S  
EXACTLY HOW  
MY GRANDSON  
IS--ALWAYS  
DRINKING SODA.  
IT *CAN'T* BE  
GOOD FOR YOU...

.....  
YEAH,  
YEAH...

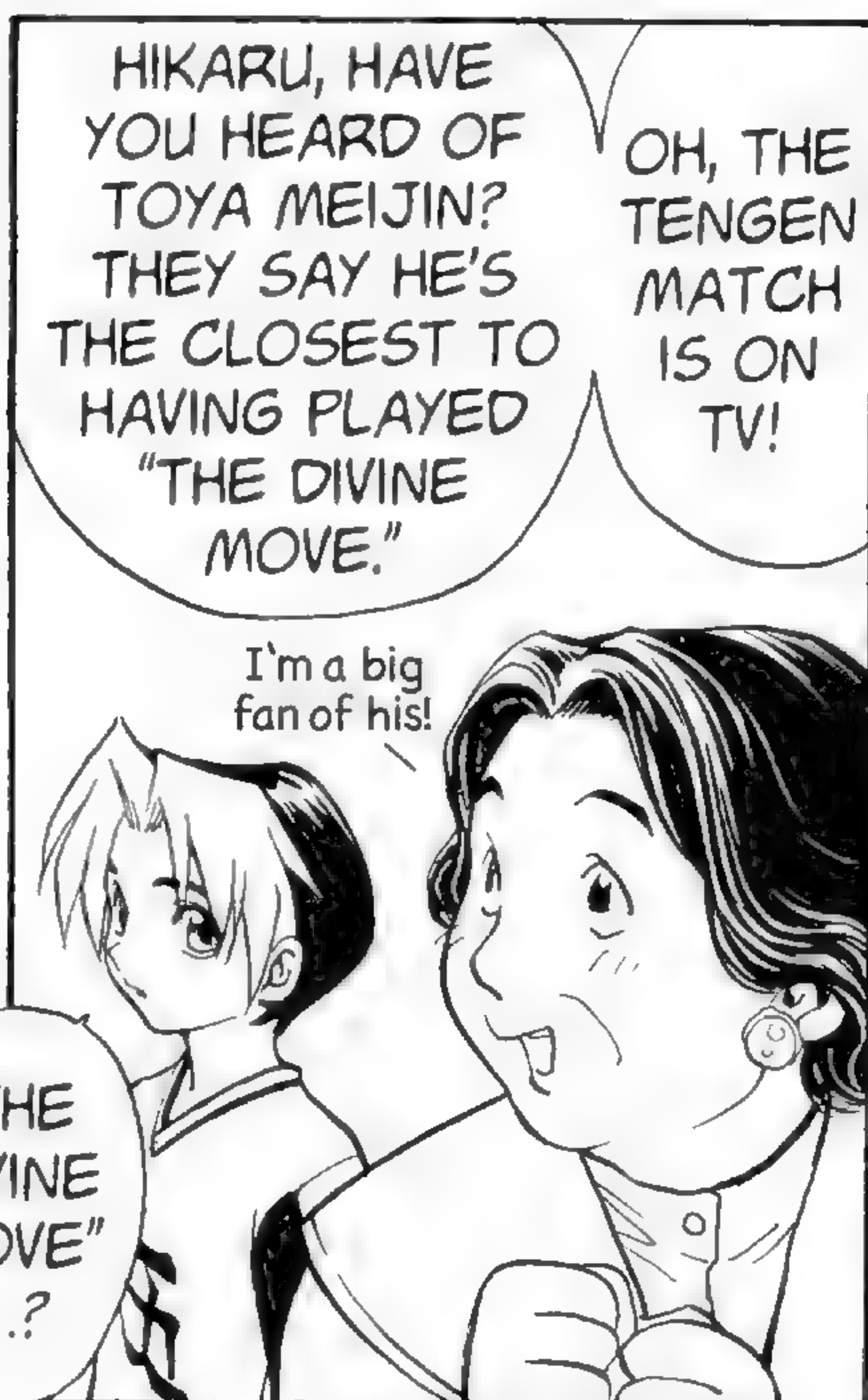


OH, DEAR  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
WITH ALL  
THIS SODA?



HMM?

Hikaru!  
Something  
very peculiar is  
happening in  
that little box!  
People are  
playing Go!



HIKARU, HAVE  
YOU HEARD OF  
TOYA MEIJIN?  
THEY SAY HE'S  
THE CLOSEST TO  
HAVING PLAYED  
"THE DIVINE  
MOVE."

OH, THE  
TENGEN  
MATCH  
IS ON  
TV!

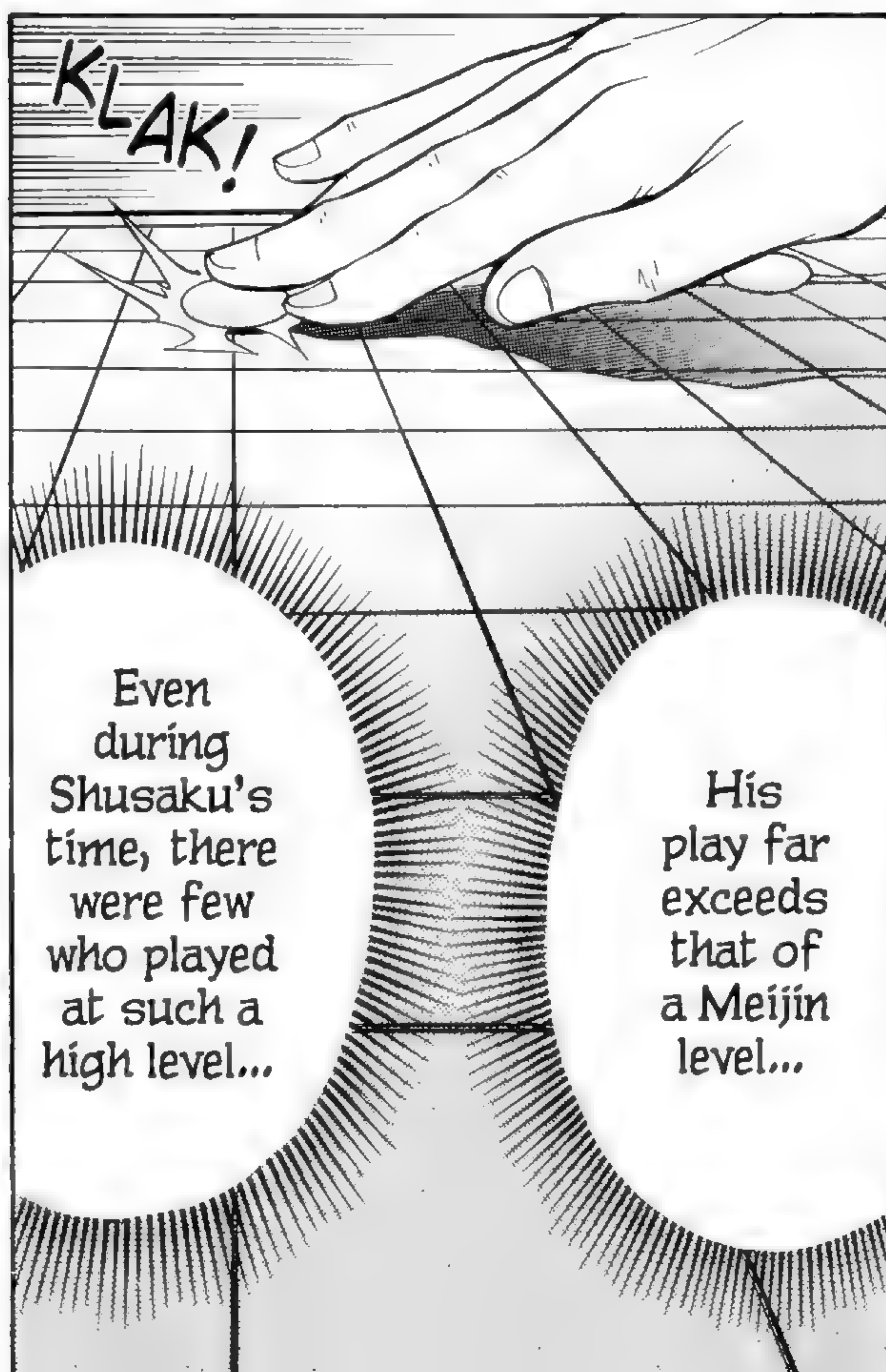
I'm a big  
fan of his!

"THE  
DIVINE  
MOVE"  
....?



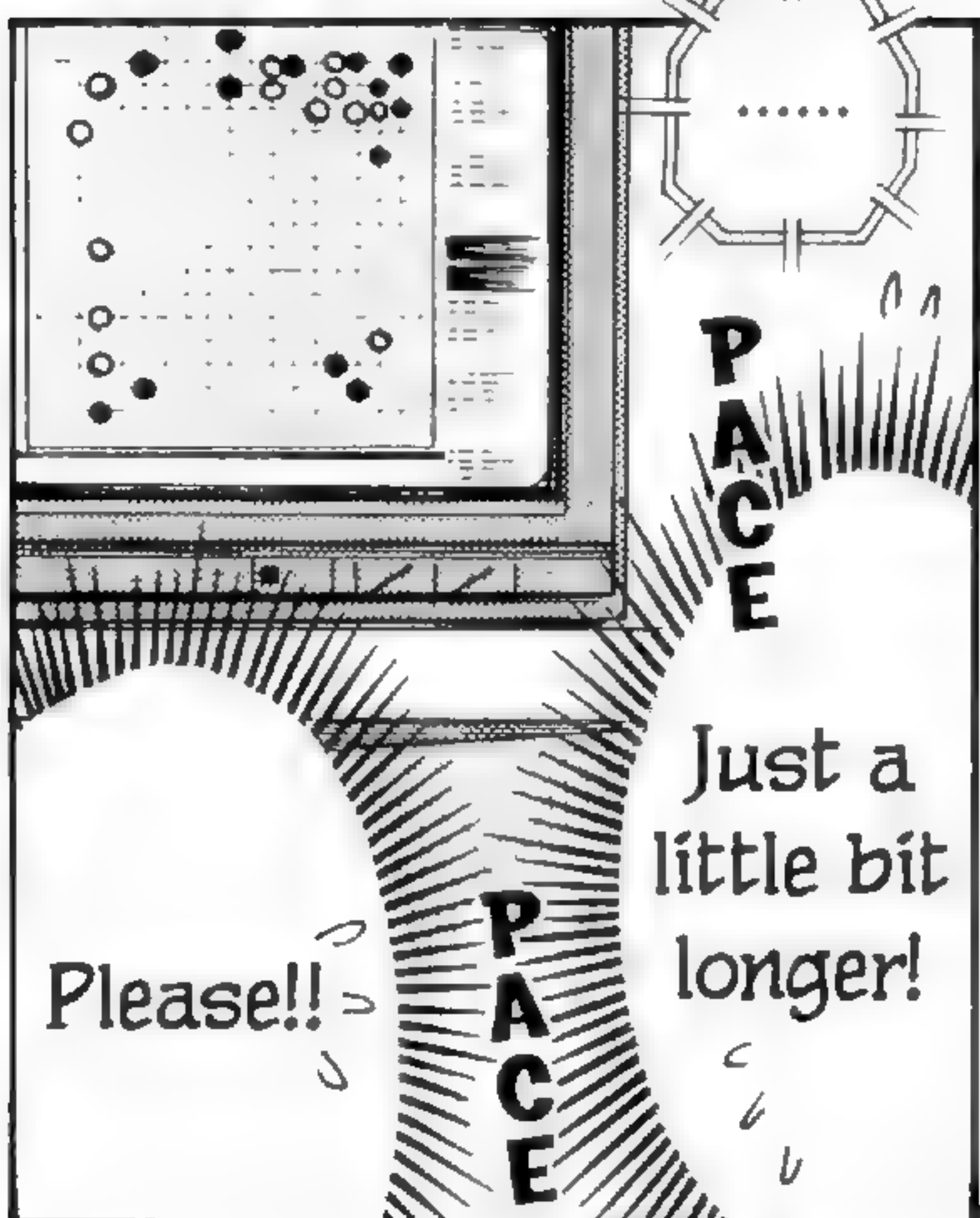
WHITE PLAYS  
AT P-17,  
ATTACKING  
WITH A SMALL  
KNIGHT'S  
MOVE.







READ THIS WAY











GRRRR!!

HIKARU!!

S-SENSEI...



I'M  
LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO SEEING  
YOUR NEW  
WIG, NEXT  
WEEK!

FWUMP

THANKS,  
MR.  
AKOTA!!



UH-OH...



NOW  
HIKARU,  
I THINK  
YOU  
WERE  
A BIT  
HARSH.



THAT'S IT!  
NO CLASS  
FOR YOU,  
TODAY!!!

I didn't  
do it on  
purpose...



YOU  
WERE  
MAKING  
FUN  
OF MR.  
AKOTA  
AGAIN!!

WHO WOULD'VE  
THOUGHT IT'D  
BE SO HARD  
TO LEARN TO  
PLAY GO ?



DARN!





OKAY,  
OKAY!!

.....!!



You got  
the teacher  
mad, and  
now we  
can't play  
Go!

SOB SOB  
SOB SOB

It's all  
your fault,  
Hikaru!

I DIDN'T  
*MEAN*  
FOR  
THIS TO  
HAPPEN...



DON'T  
TAKE IT SO  
HARD, HIKARU.  
SHIRAKAWA  
SENSEI'S  
JUST TRYING  
TO DO  
WHAT'S BEST  
FOR YOU...

YOU  
JUST  
TRY TO  
STAY  
CALM...

I'LL  
THINK  
OF  
SOME-  
THING  
...



BUT ONLY REALLY  
STRONG PLAYERS  
GO THERE. I  
DON'T THINK  
YOU'RE READY  
YET, HIKARU...



THERE'S  
A GO  
SALON IN  
FRONT OF  
THE TRAIN  
STATION.

YES,  
WELL...

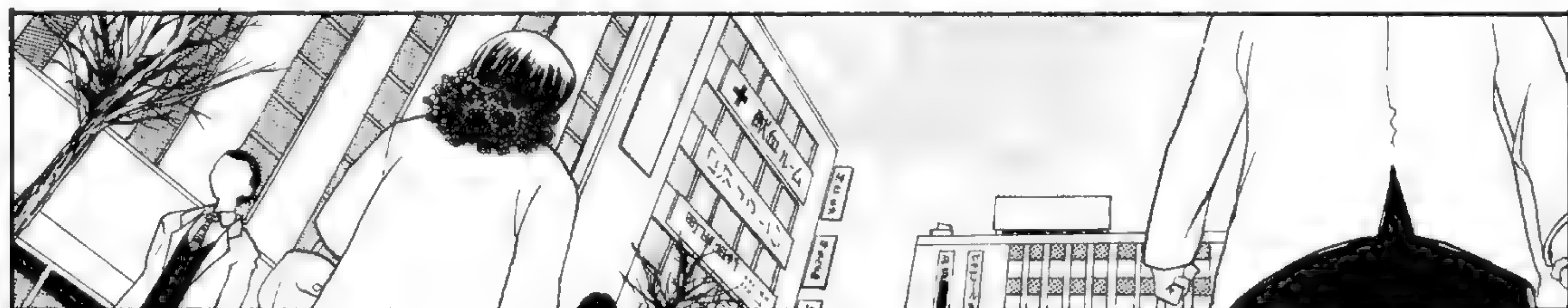
IN FRONT  
OF THE  
STATION?



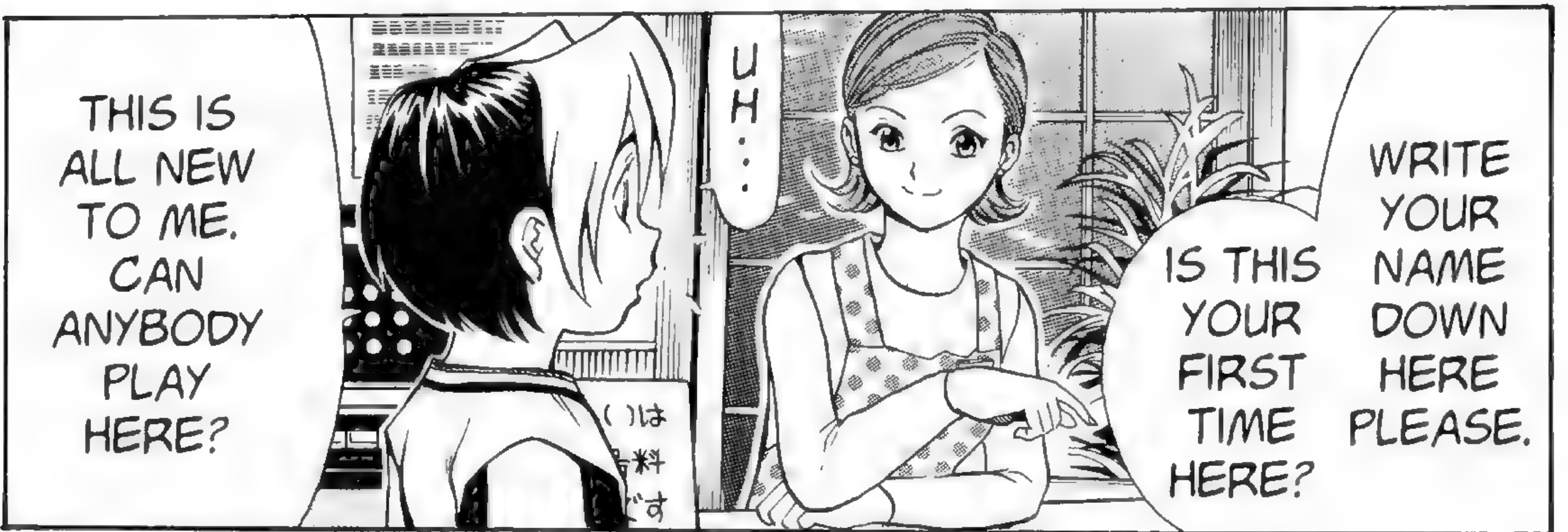
HMM?

ARE  
THERE  
ANY OTHER  
PLACES TO  
PLAY GO  
AROUND  
HERE?

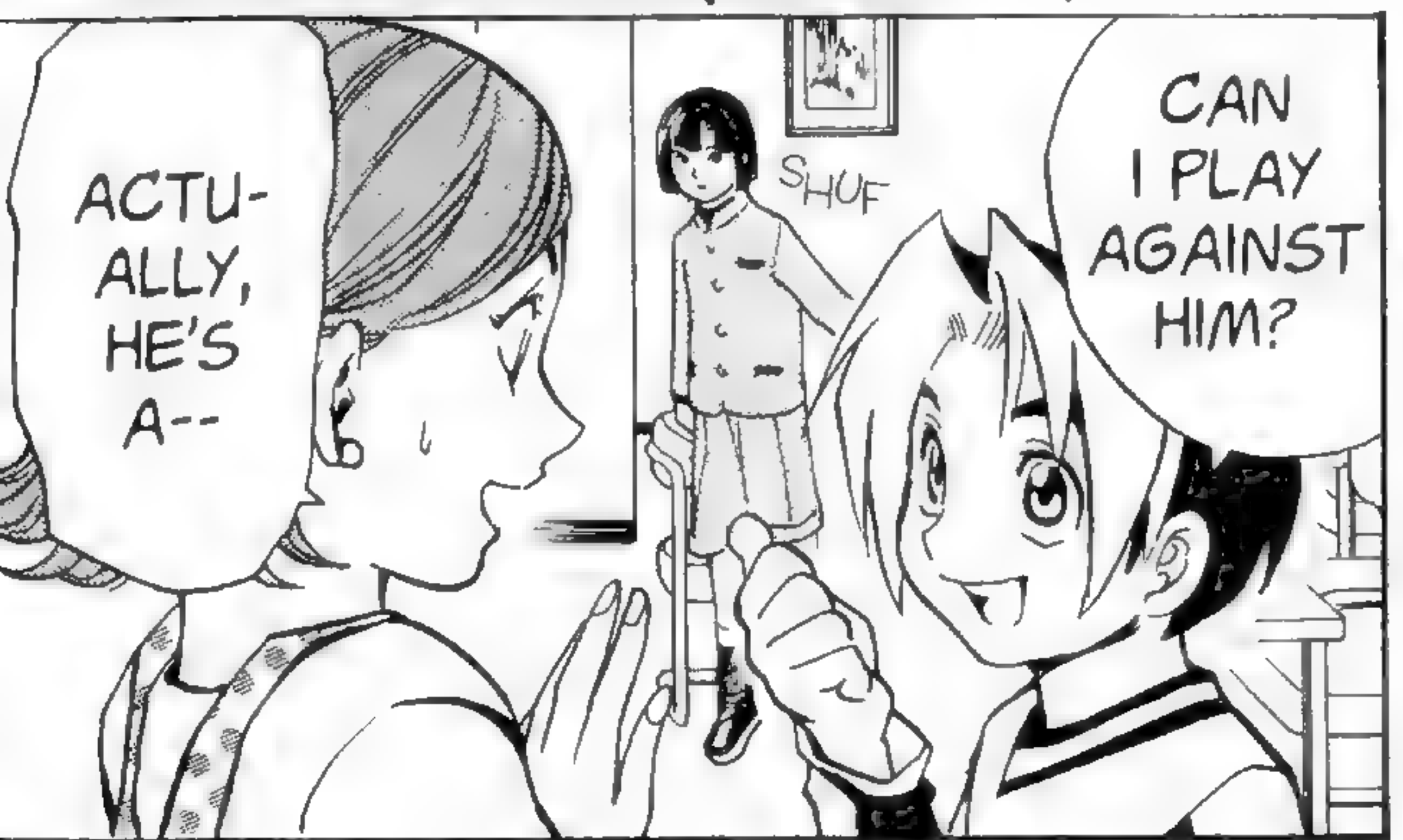












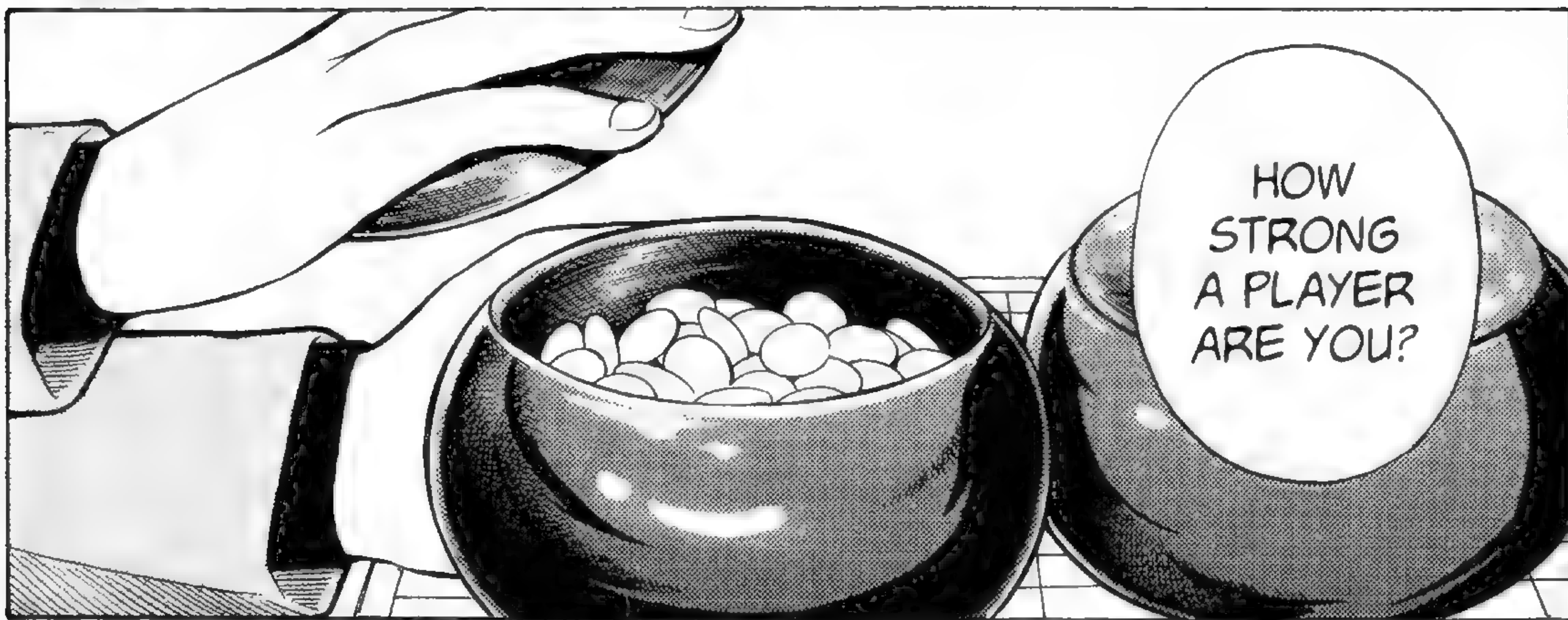




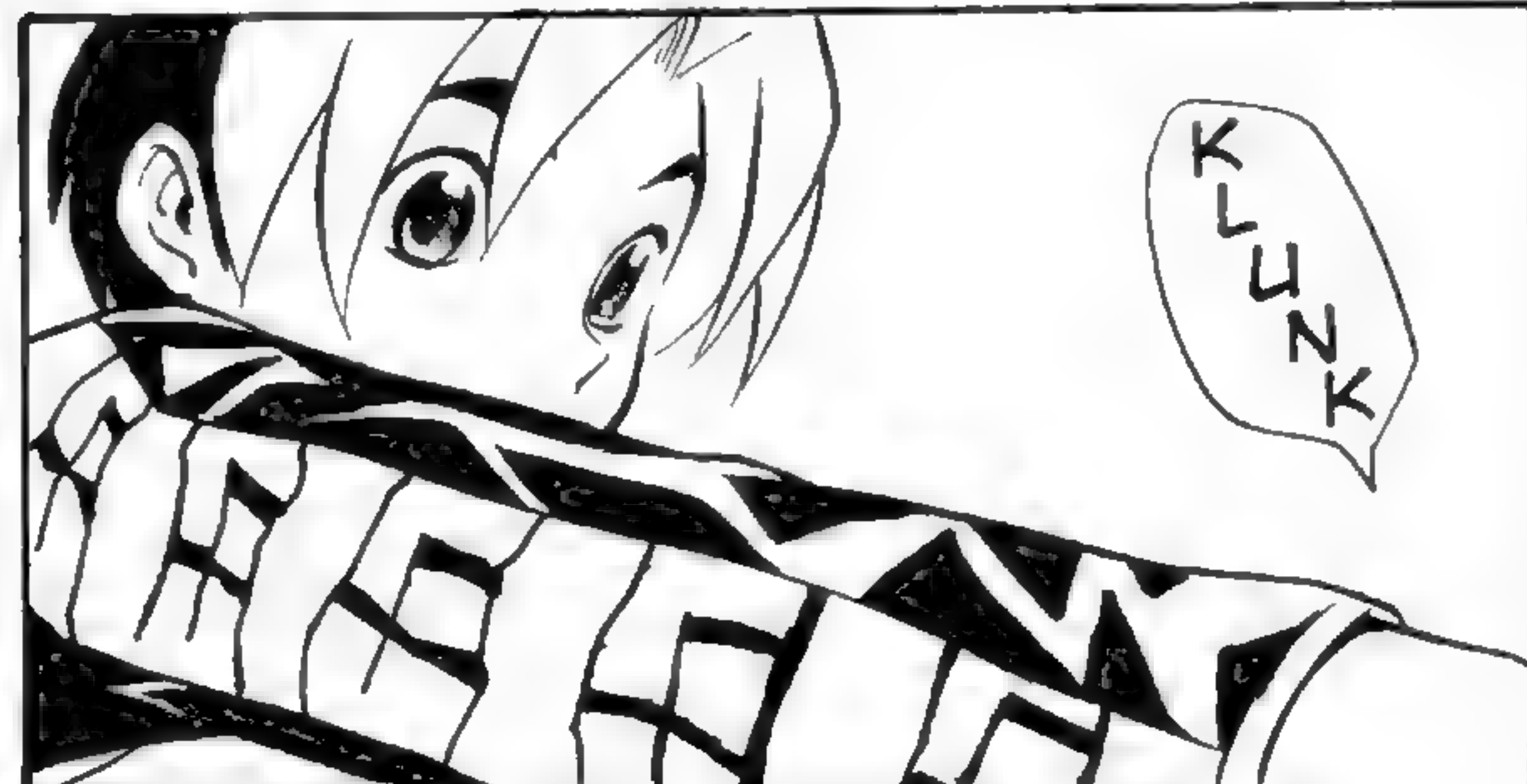
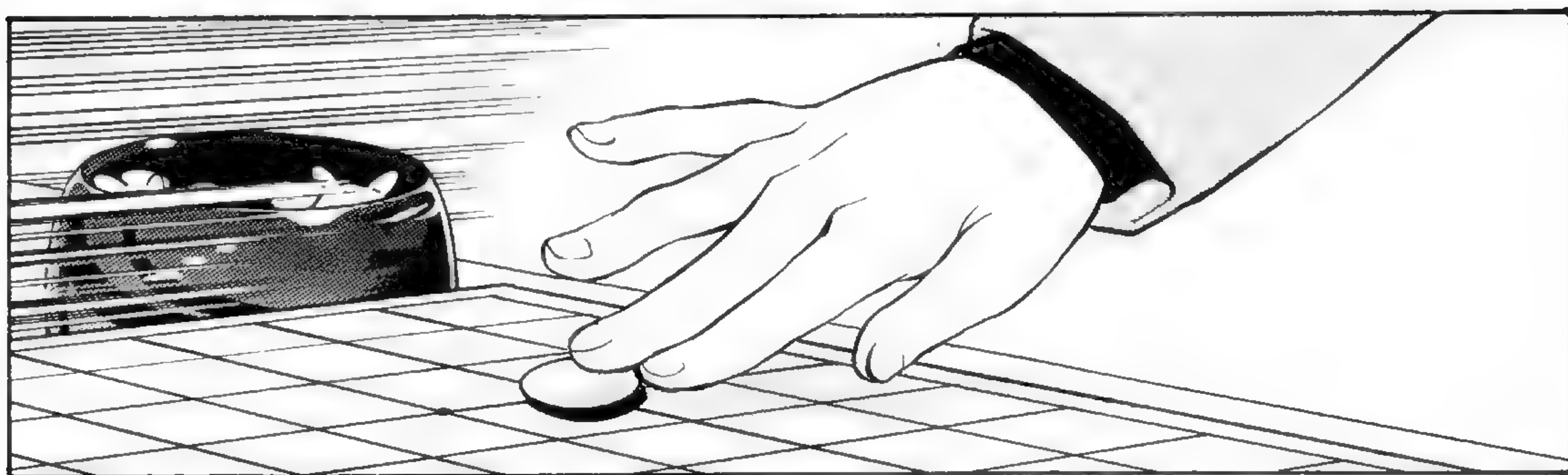
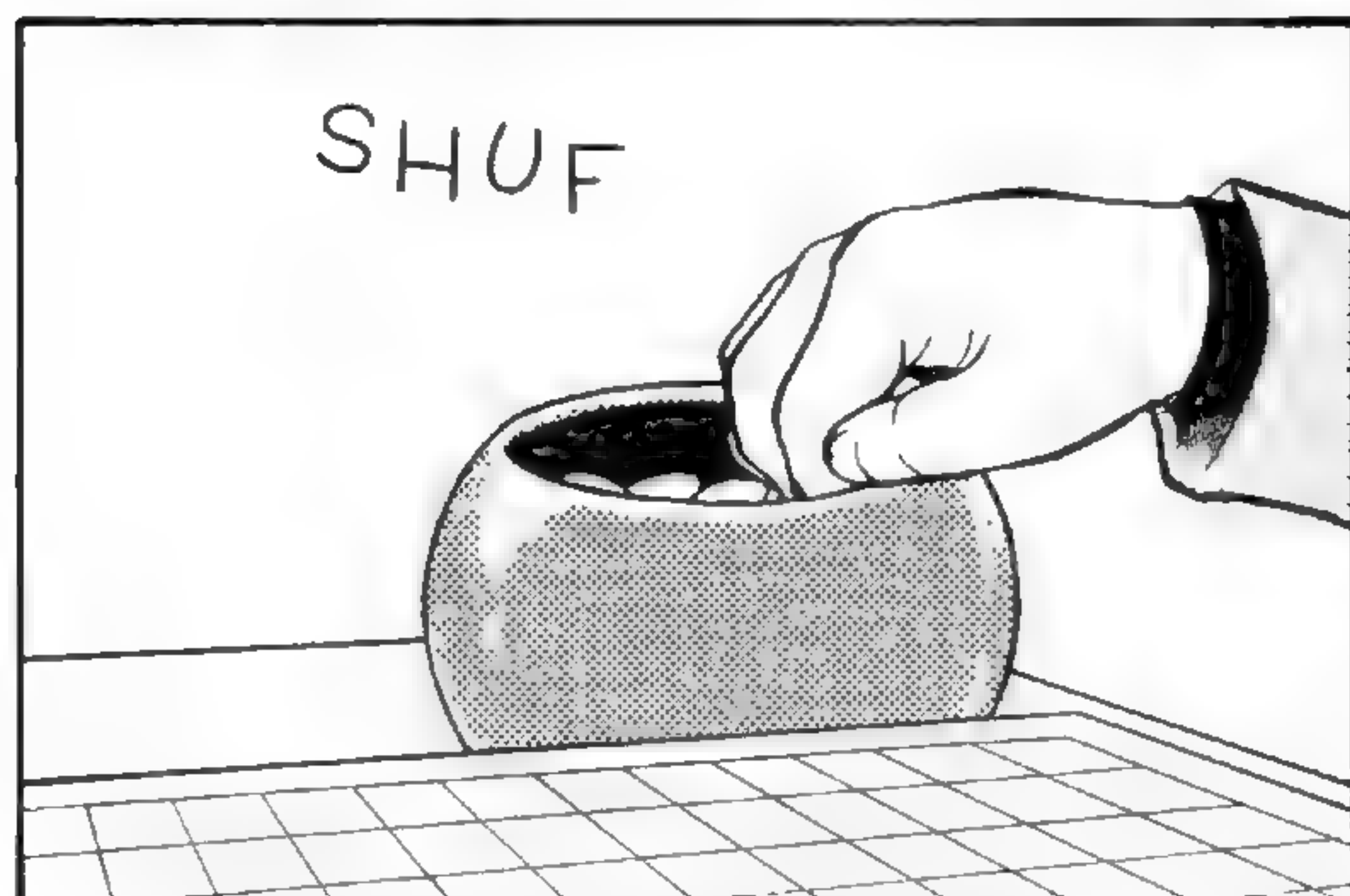
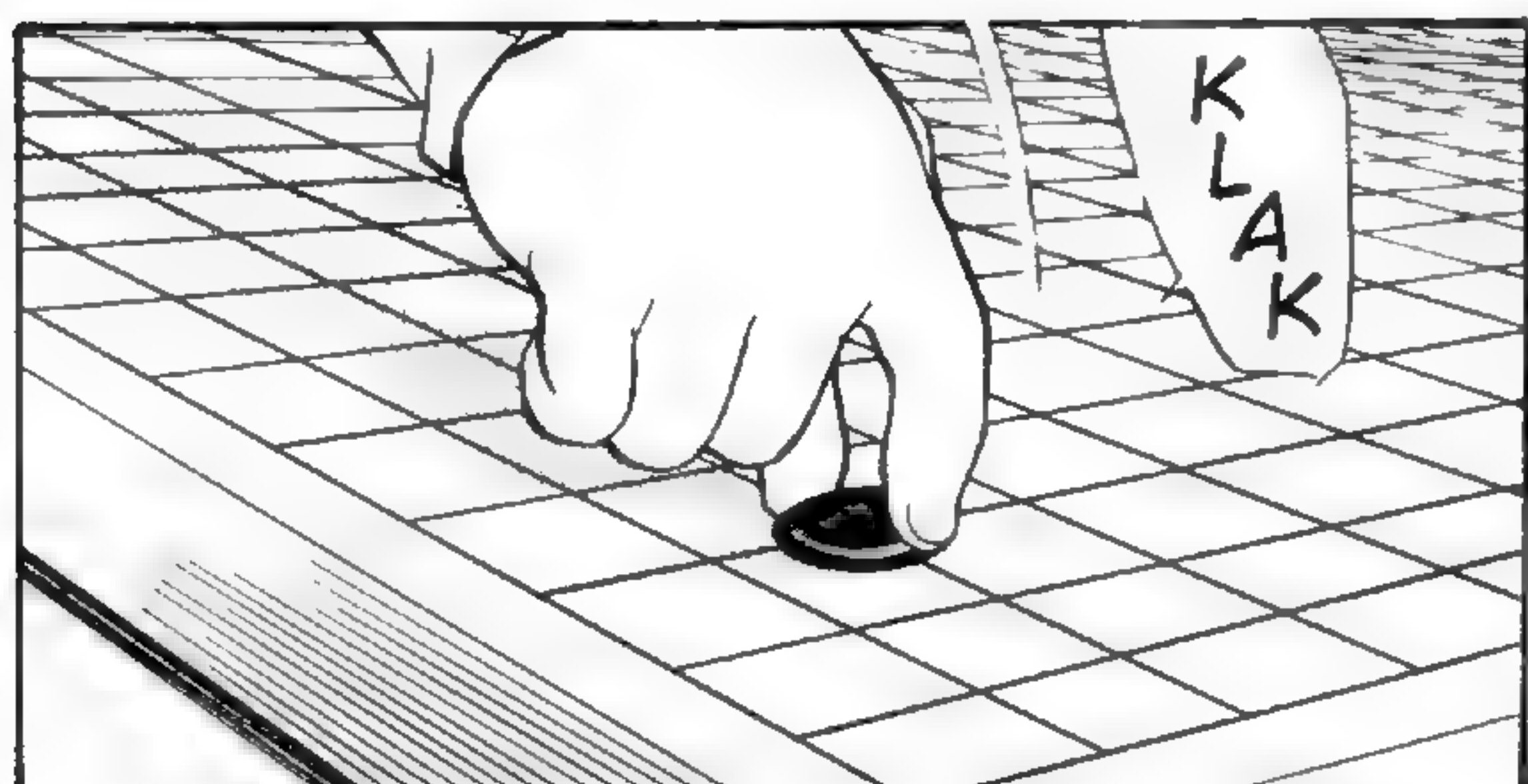
\*approximately \$4.25





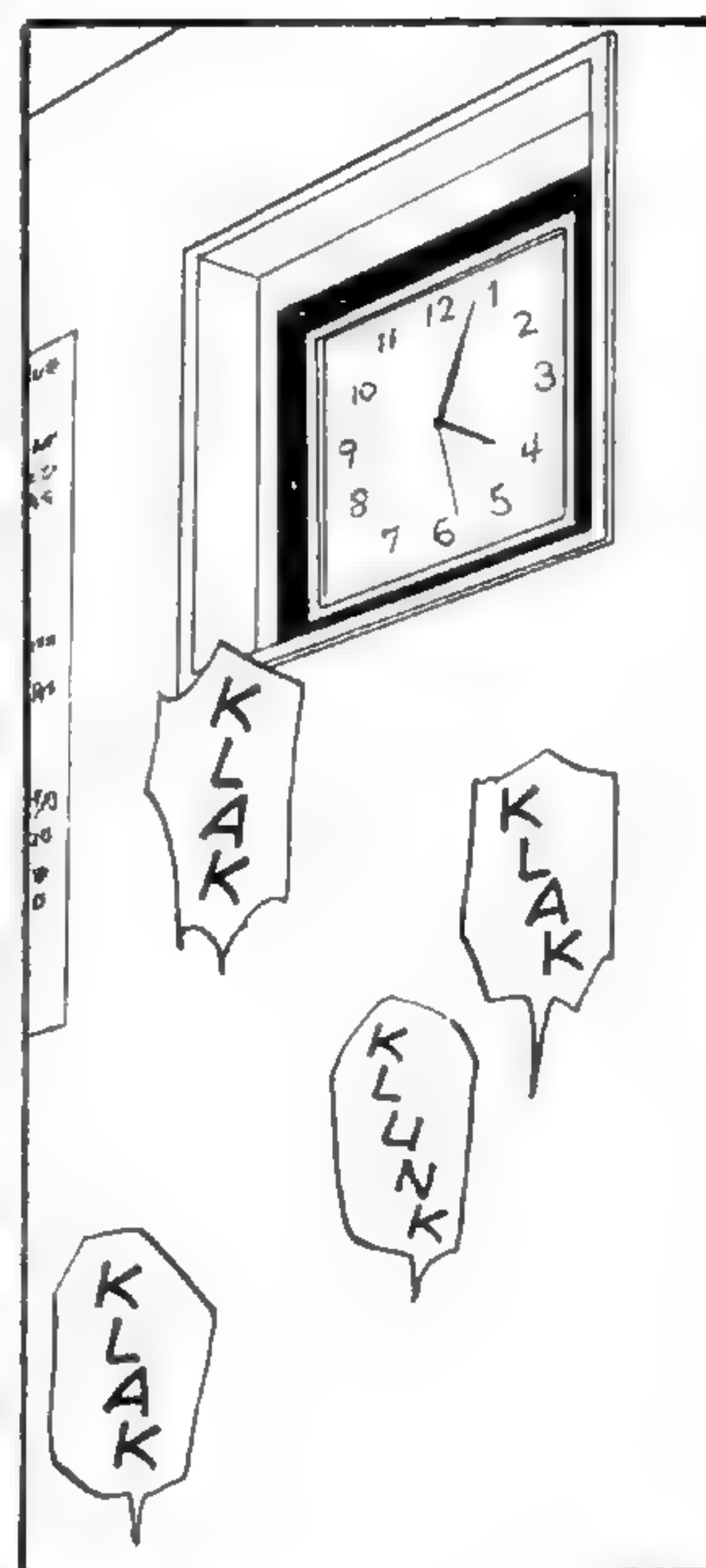
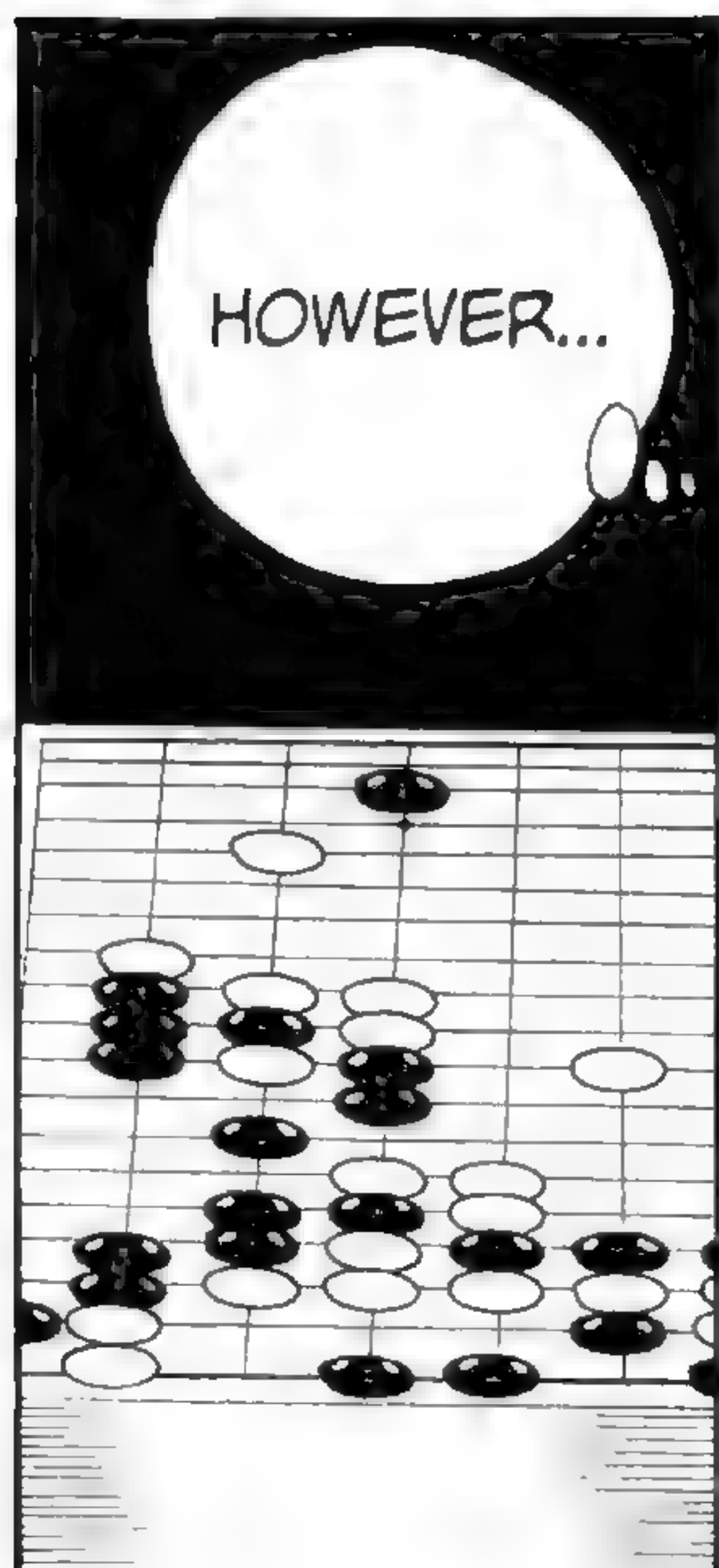




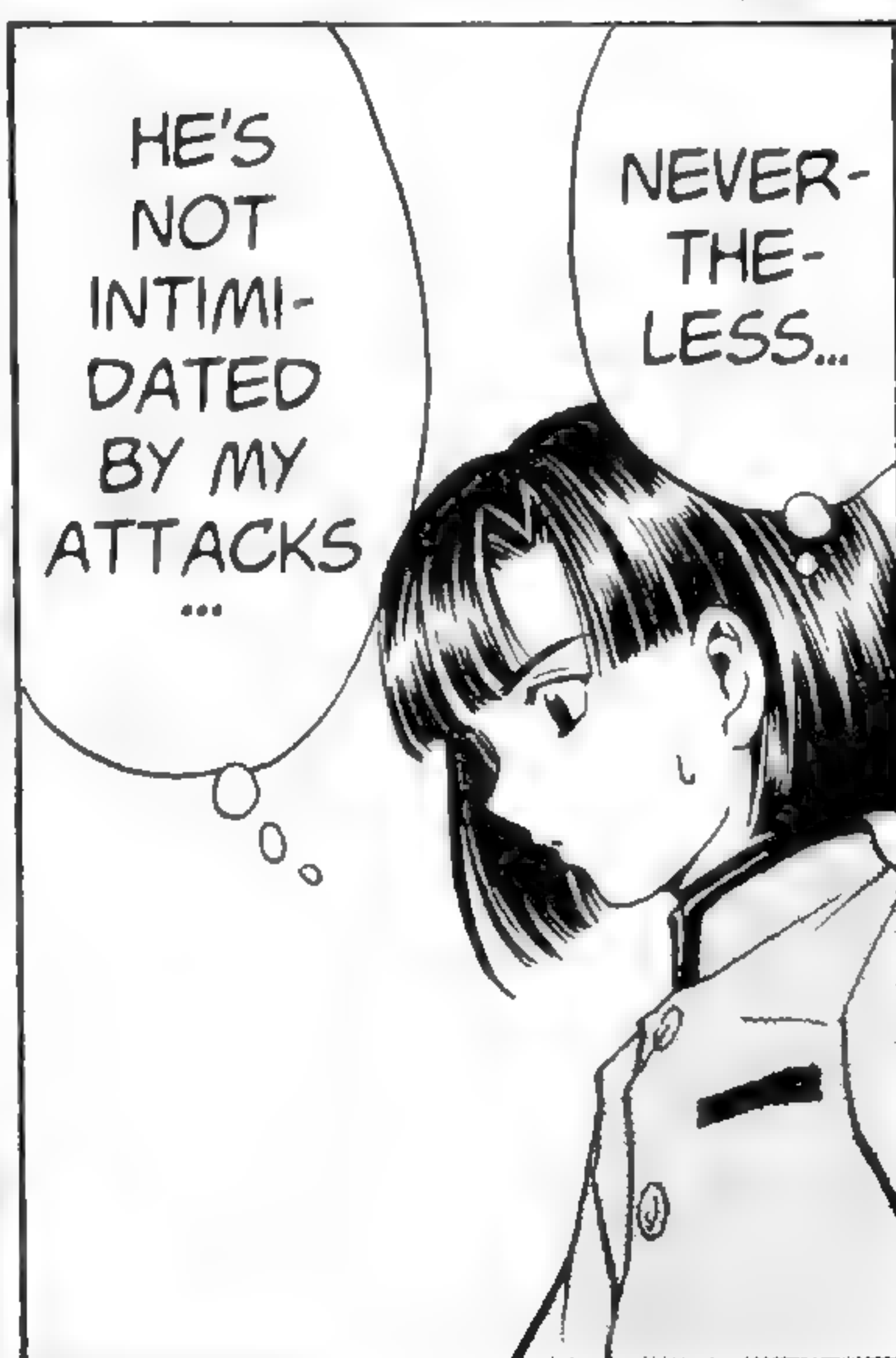




READ  
THIS  
WAY



\*joseki: a standardized set of plays.







HAS HE BEEN LEADING THE GAME THIS WHOLE TIME?





HE'S  
TESTING  
MY  
STRENGTH...

HE  
PLAYED  
THERE  
TO SEE  
HOW I'LL  
RESPOND!

FROM  
A LEVEL  
WAY  
BEYOND  
ME...





HE'S OVER THERE  
PLAYING WITH A  
BOY CLOSE TO  
HIS OWN AGE. AND  
AKIRA WILL GET  
MAD IF YOU CALL  
HIM "SENSEI"  
AGAIN.

IT'S  
ONLY RIGHT.  
AFTER ALL,  
HE TEACHES  
ME SO MUCH  
ABOUT THE  
GAME...



IS AKIRA  
SENSEI HERE?  
I WANTED HIM  
TO PLAY A  
TEACHING  
GAME WITH  
ME.

WELL,  
HELLO!



BUT HE'S  
ALREADY  
GOOD  
ENOUGH  
TO PASS...

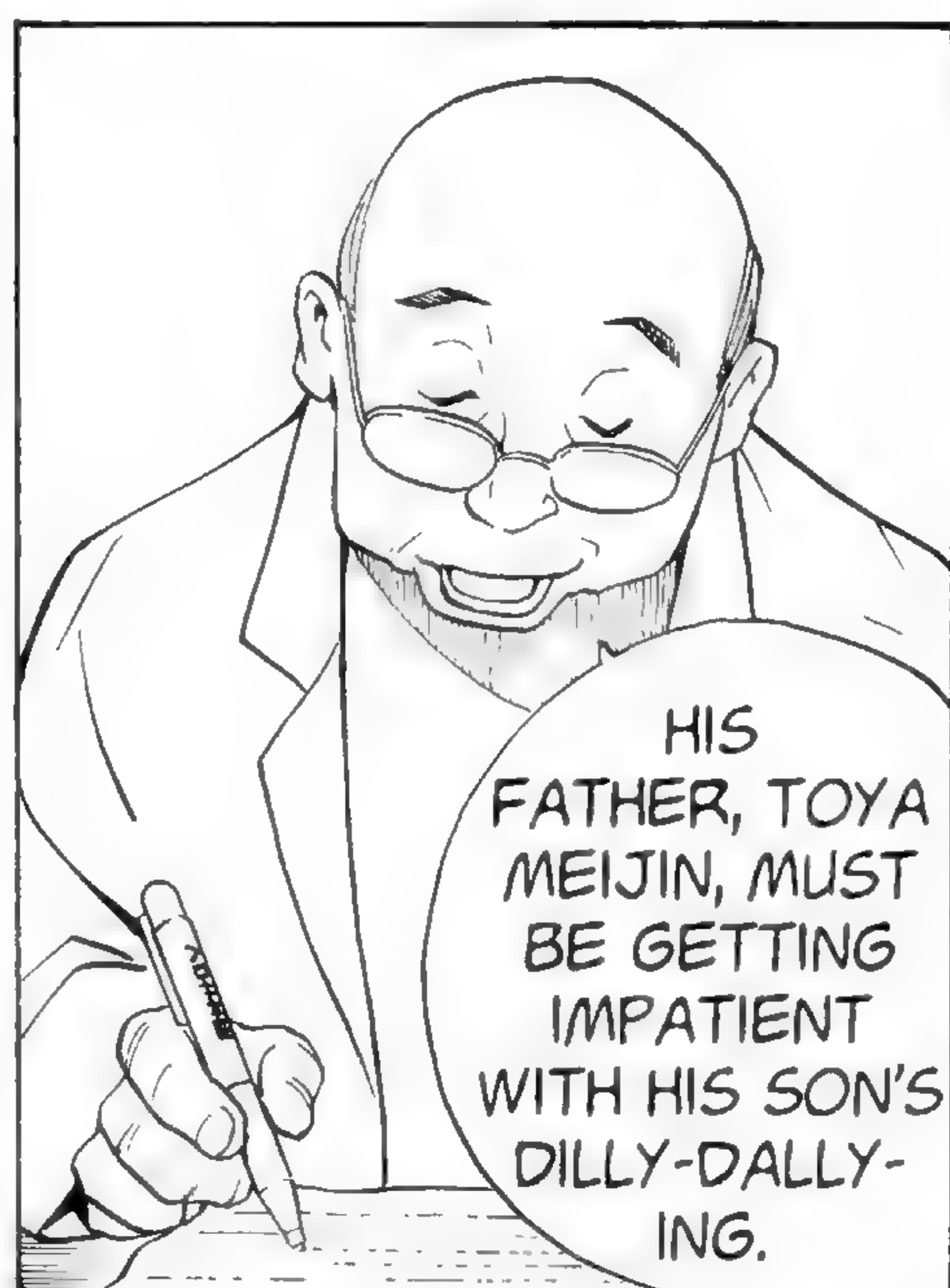
AKIRA SAYS  
HE WANTS TO  
WAIT UNTIL HE  
BECOMES A  
STRONGER  
PLAYER.

I HEAR  
HE DIDN'T  
TAKE THE  
PRO TEST  
AGAIN THIS  
YEAR.



FINISHED  
WITH  
YOUR  
GAME?

UH-HUH...



HIS  
FATHER, TOYA  
MEIJIN, MUST  
BE GETTING  
IMPATIENT  
WITH HIS SON'S  
DILLY-DALLY-  
ING.

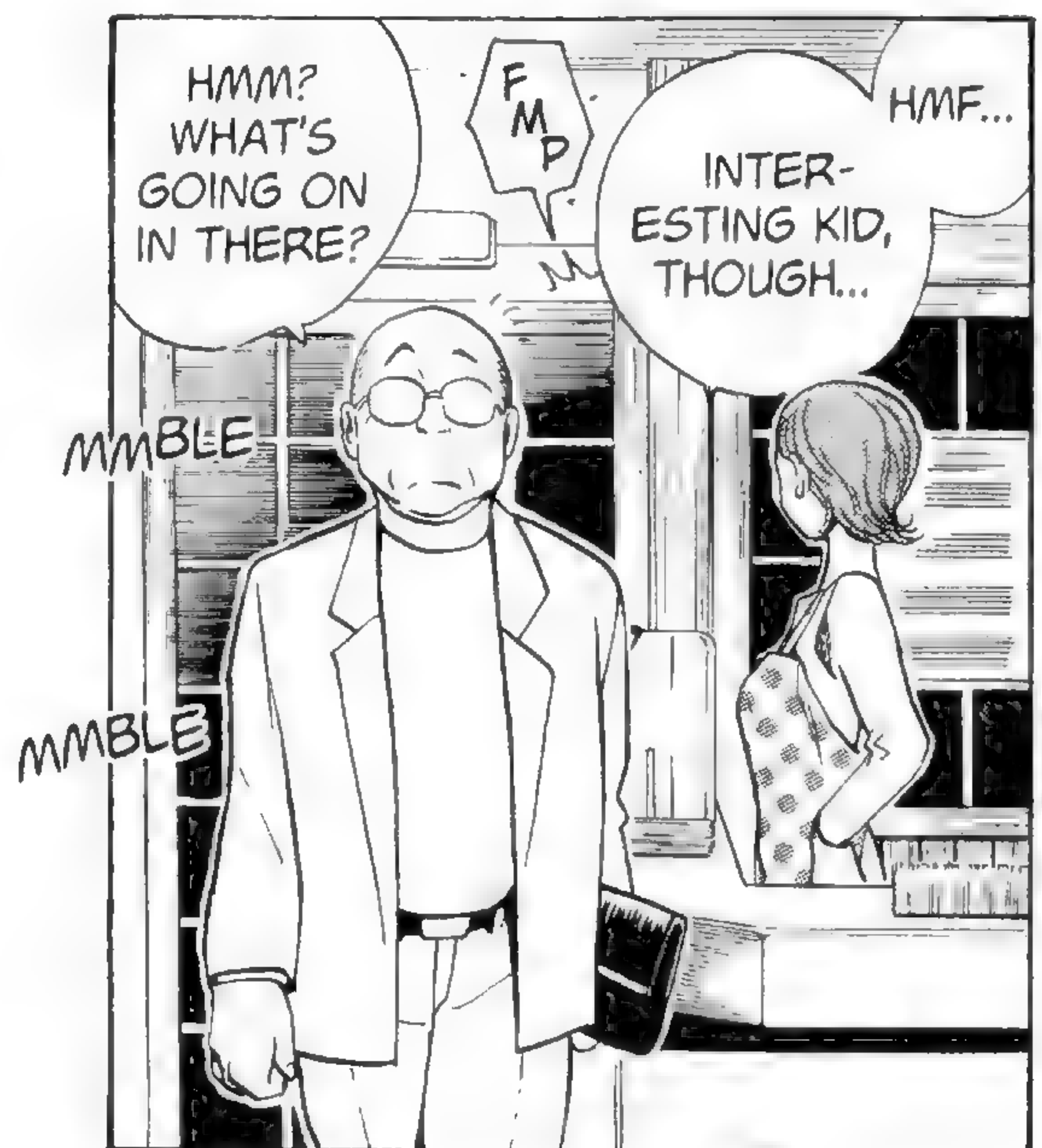




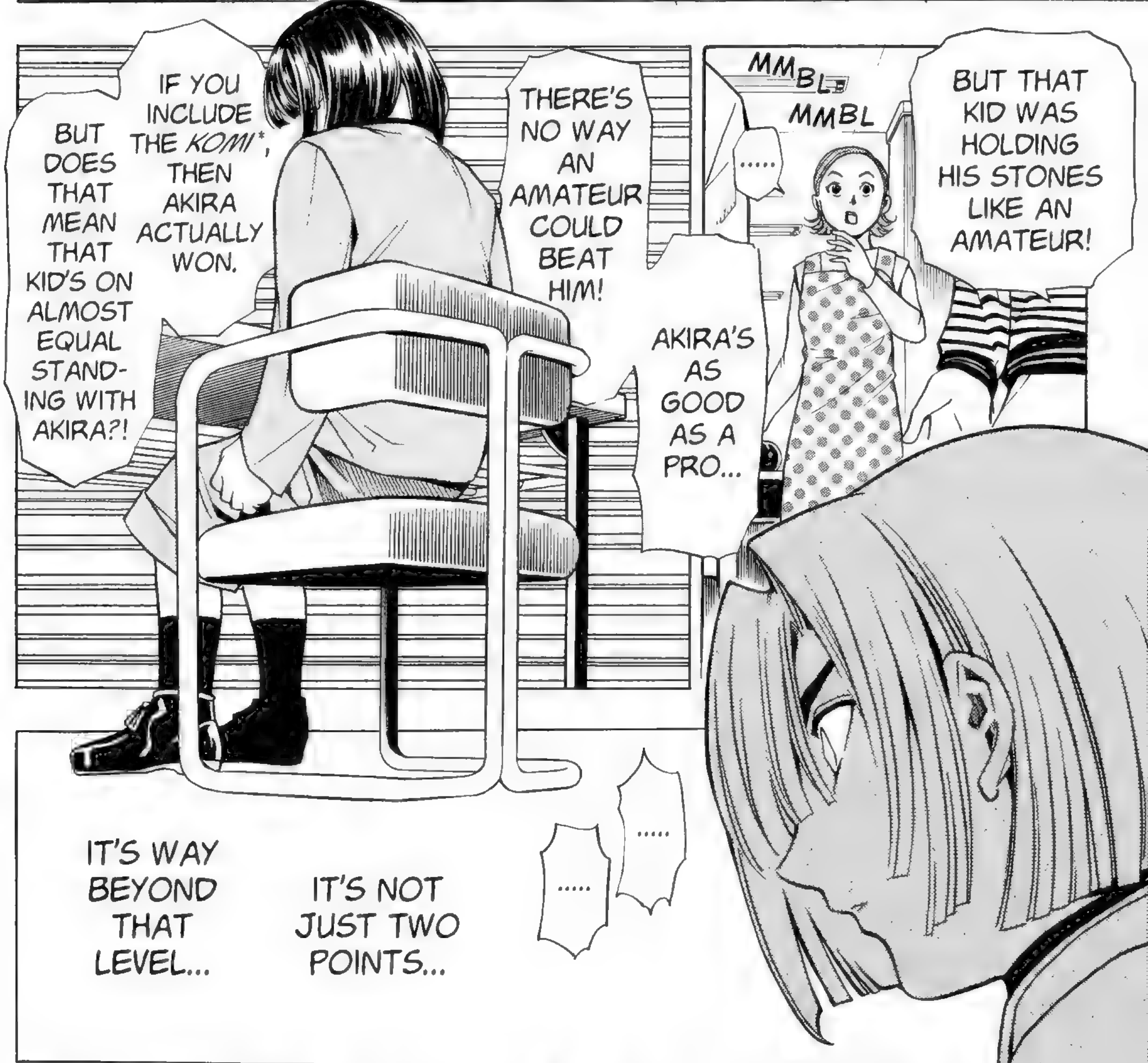
MMBLE

HE LOST...?

MMBLE

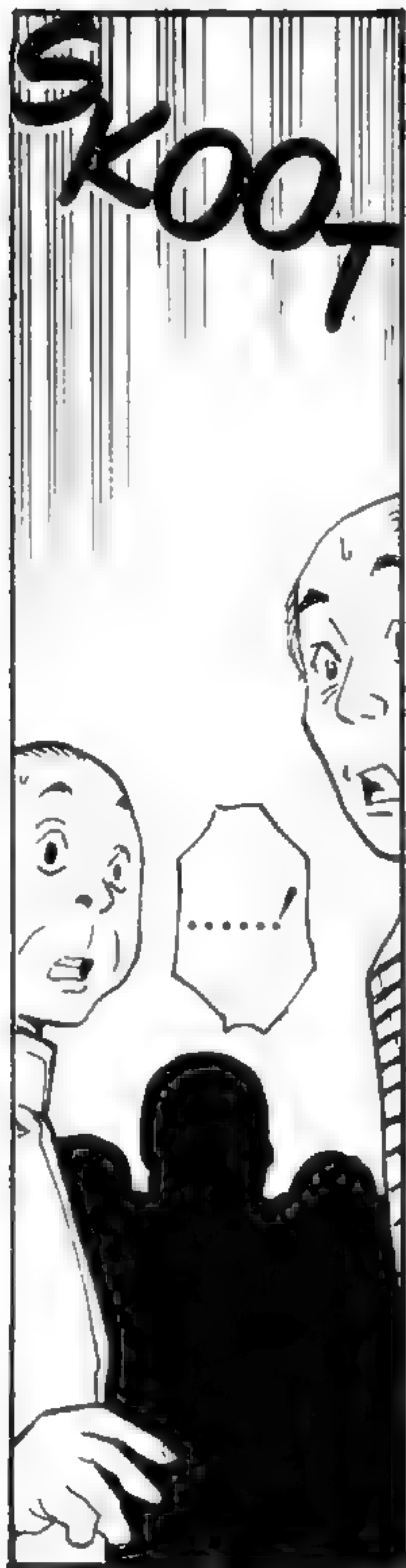






\*komi - points awarded to white at the end of a game to compensate for black's first move







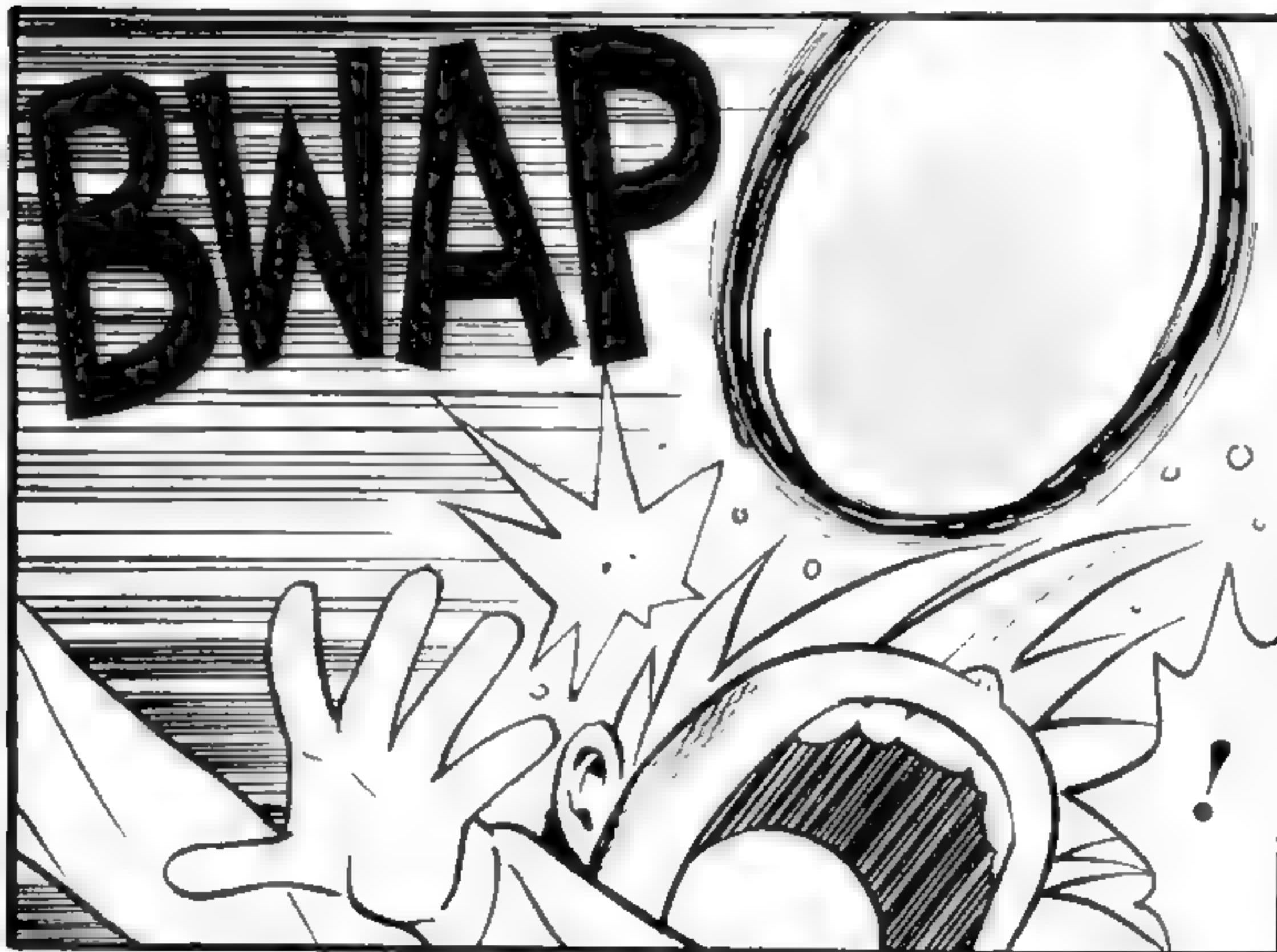
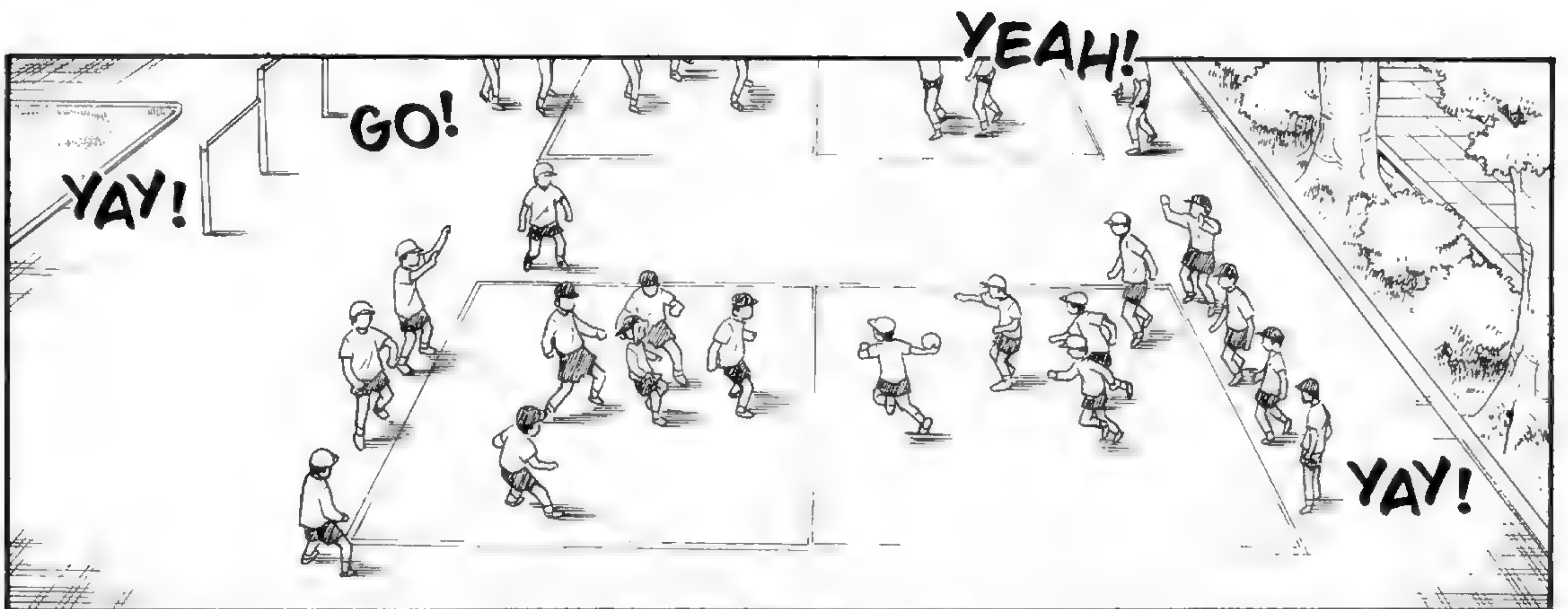




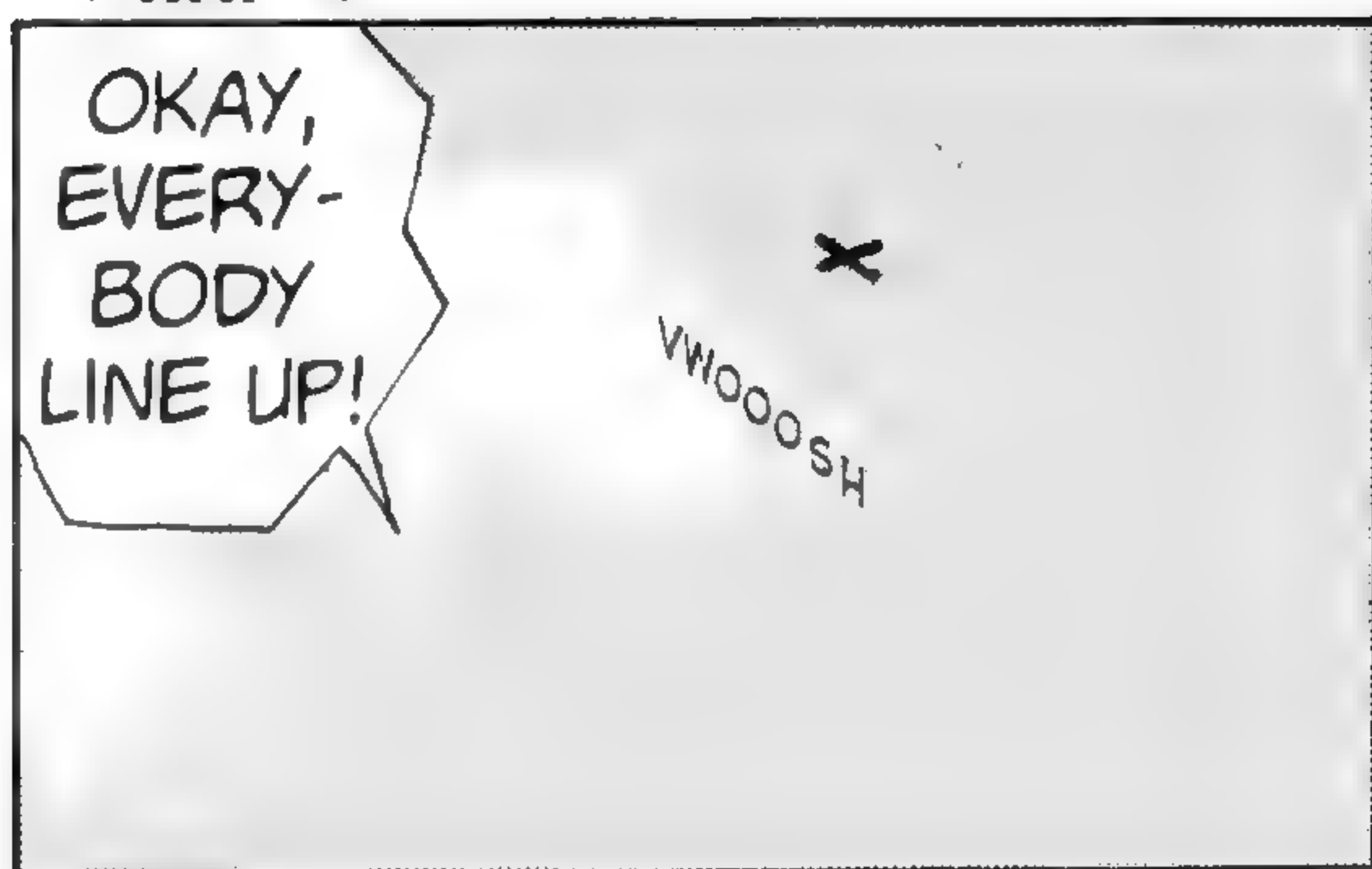


Game 3  
"Matters of  
Life and Death"

















Hikaru,  
how can  
you say  
such horrible  
things? ...Sob  
sob... Go is  
not boring!















A  
youth  
Go  
tourna-  
ment...

Hmm...



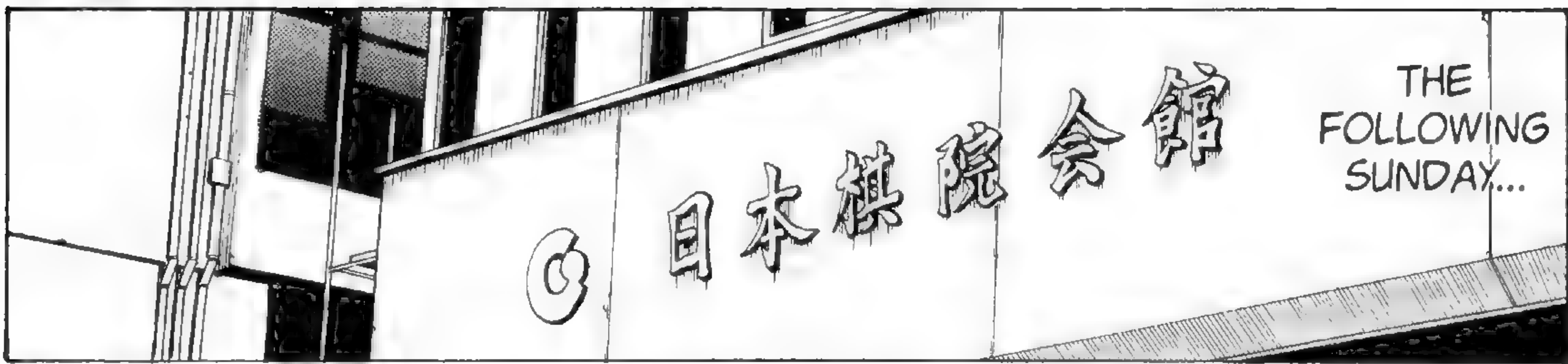
THIS  
WON'T BE  
SO BAD...



HIKARU,  
YOU *STILL*  
HAVEN'T  
WRITTEN A  
WORD...







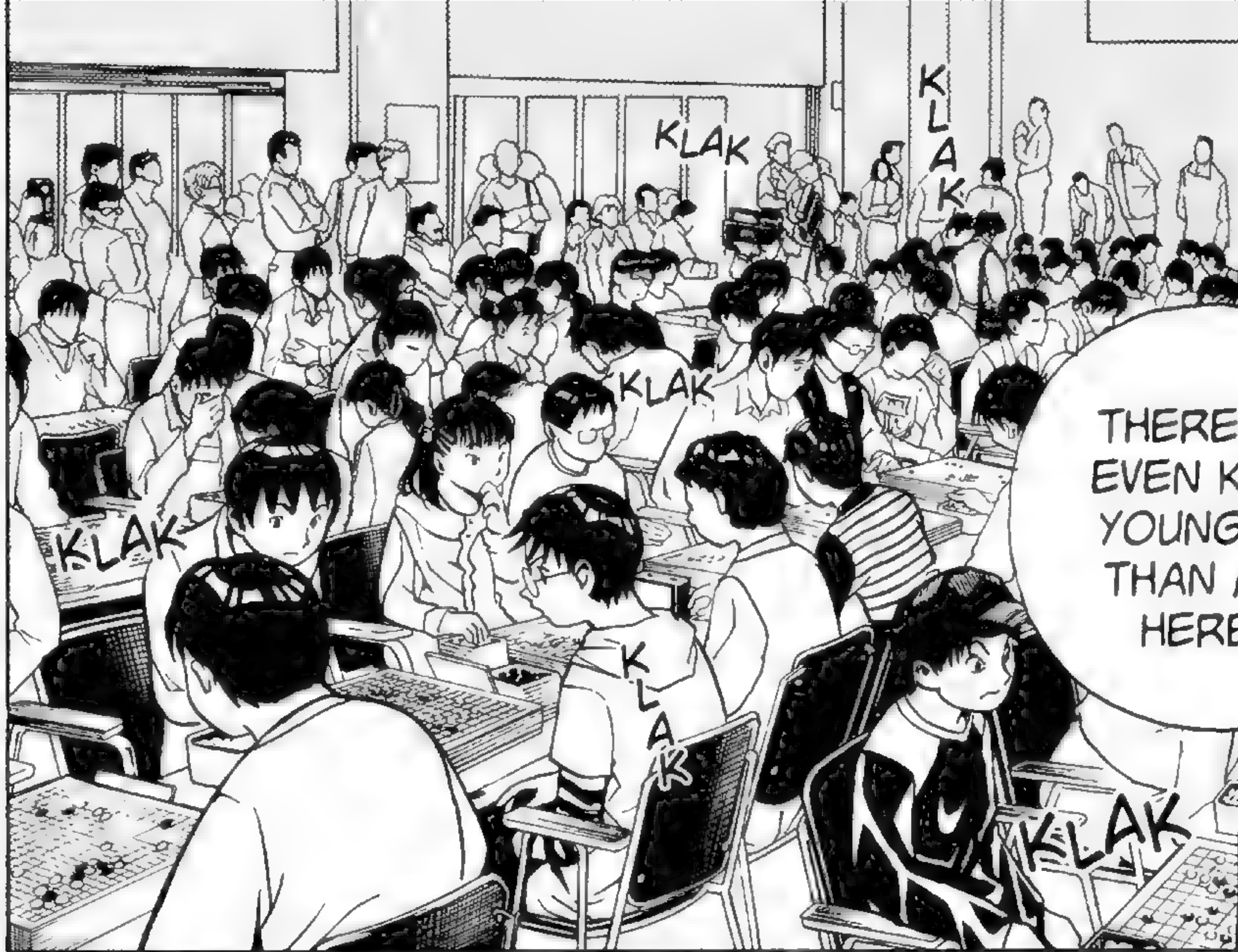
(Japan Go Center)



WOW!

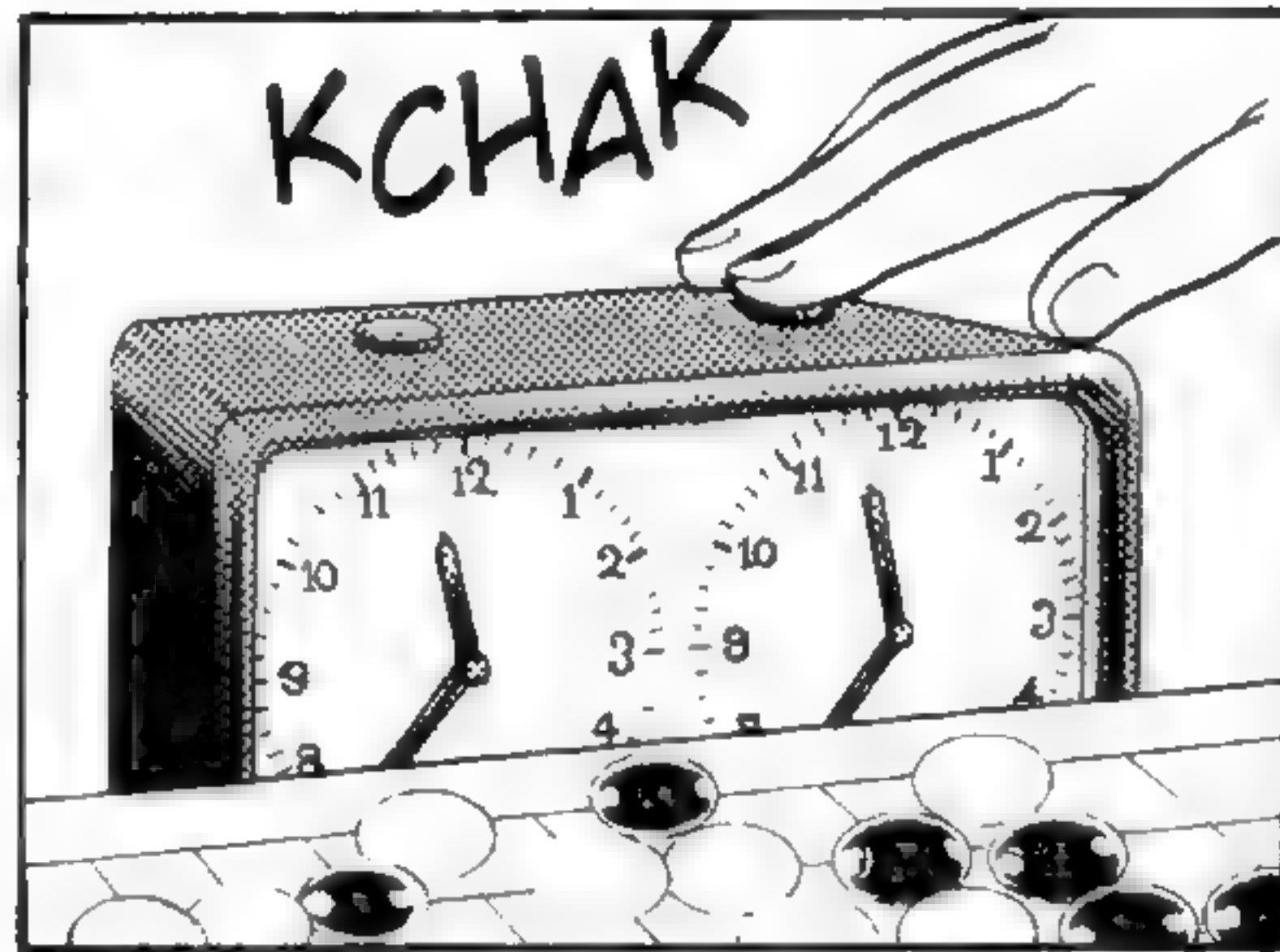






THERE'RE EVEN KIDS YOUNGER THAN ME HERE.

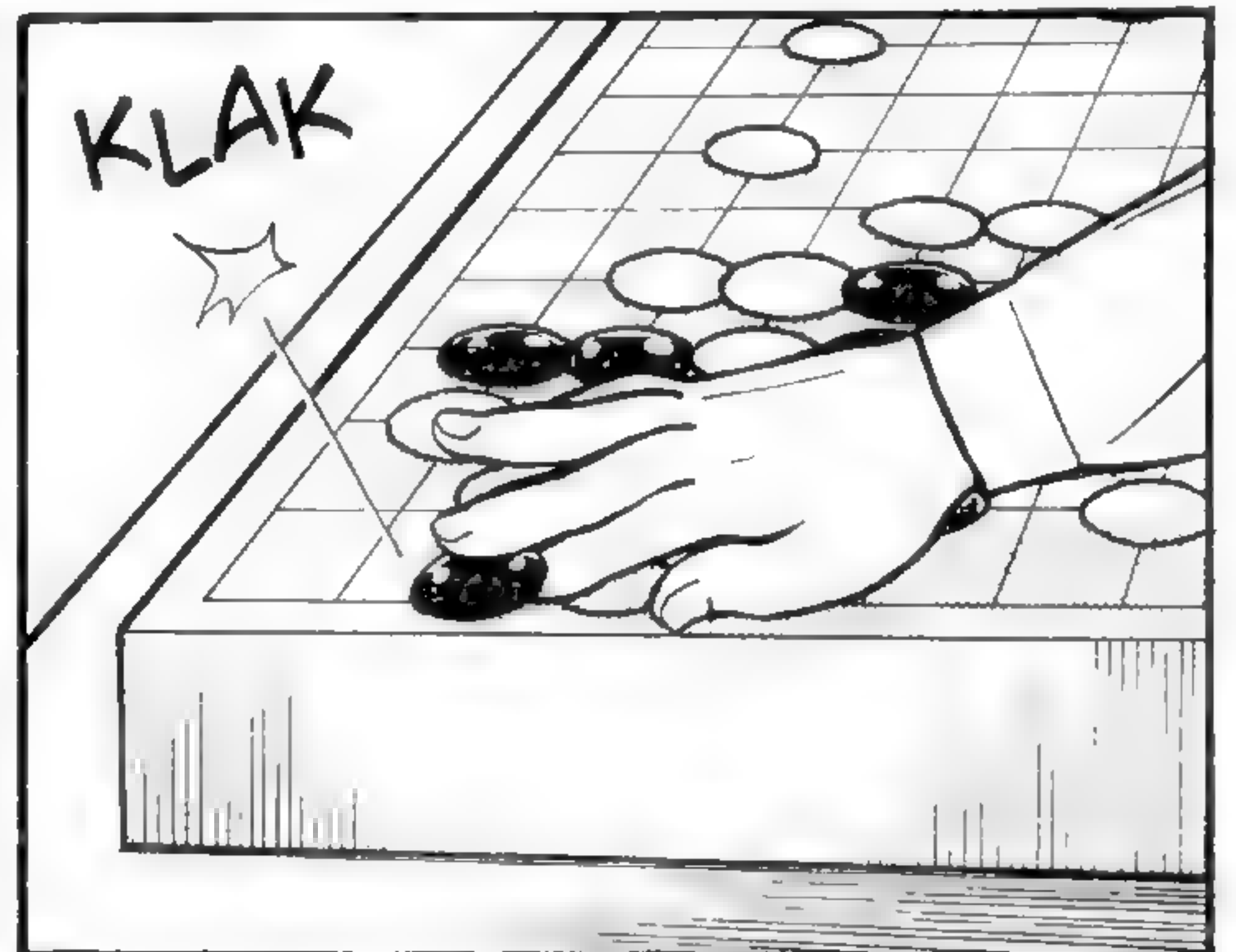
WOW! THERE'S SO MUCH TENSION IN THE AIR...







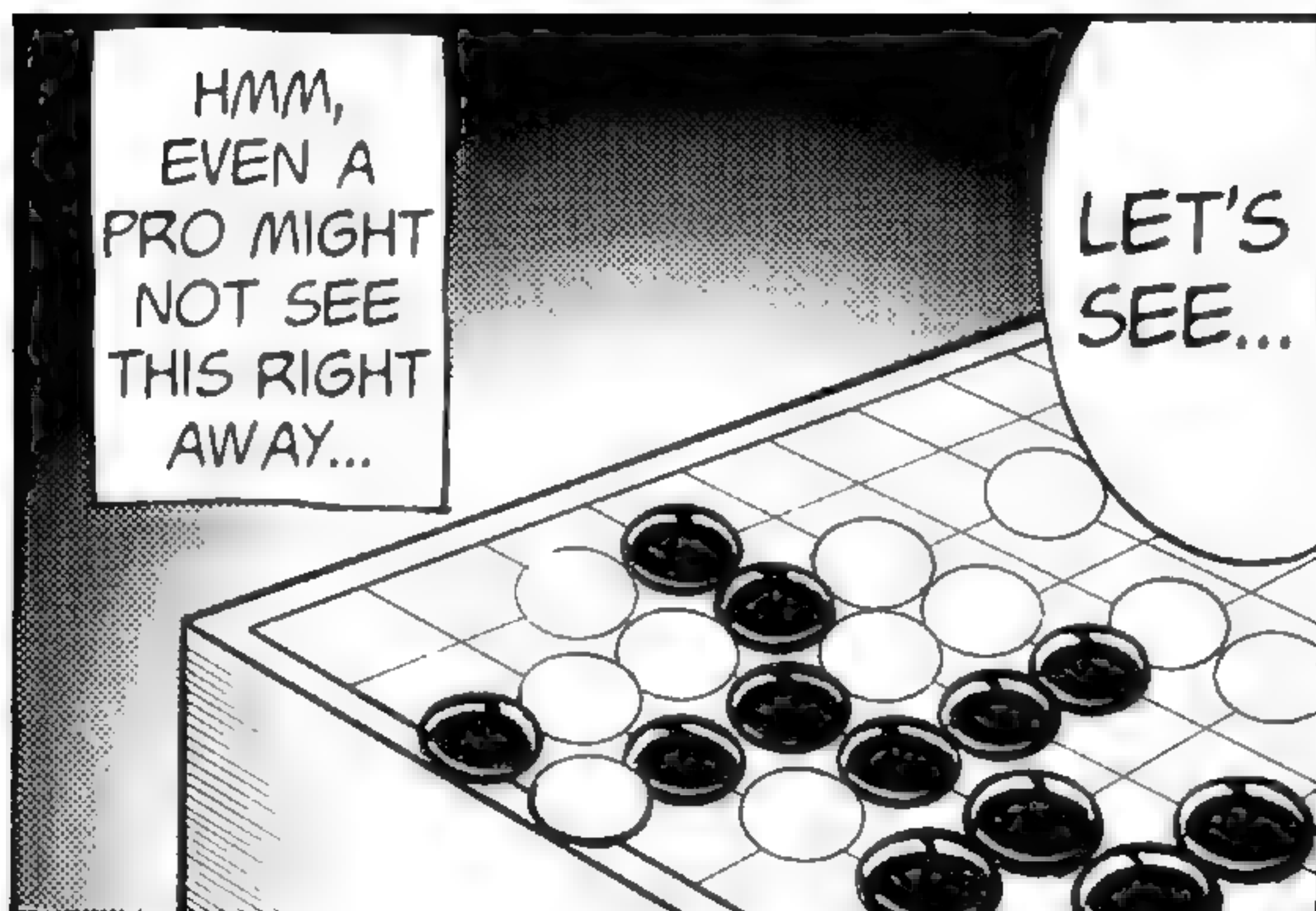












LET'S SEE...



"TOO BAD! YOU SHOULD'VE PLAYED ONE POINT HIGHER!"



IT'S A DIFFICULT SHAPE.



YES, I DID...

...AFTER THE BOY SPOKE OUT, THEN DID YOU UNDERSTAND?



I JUST KIND OF FELT THAT I COULD DO SOMETHING IN THAT AREA...

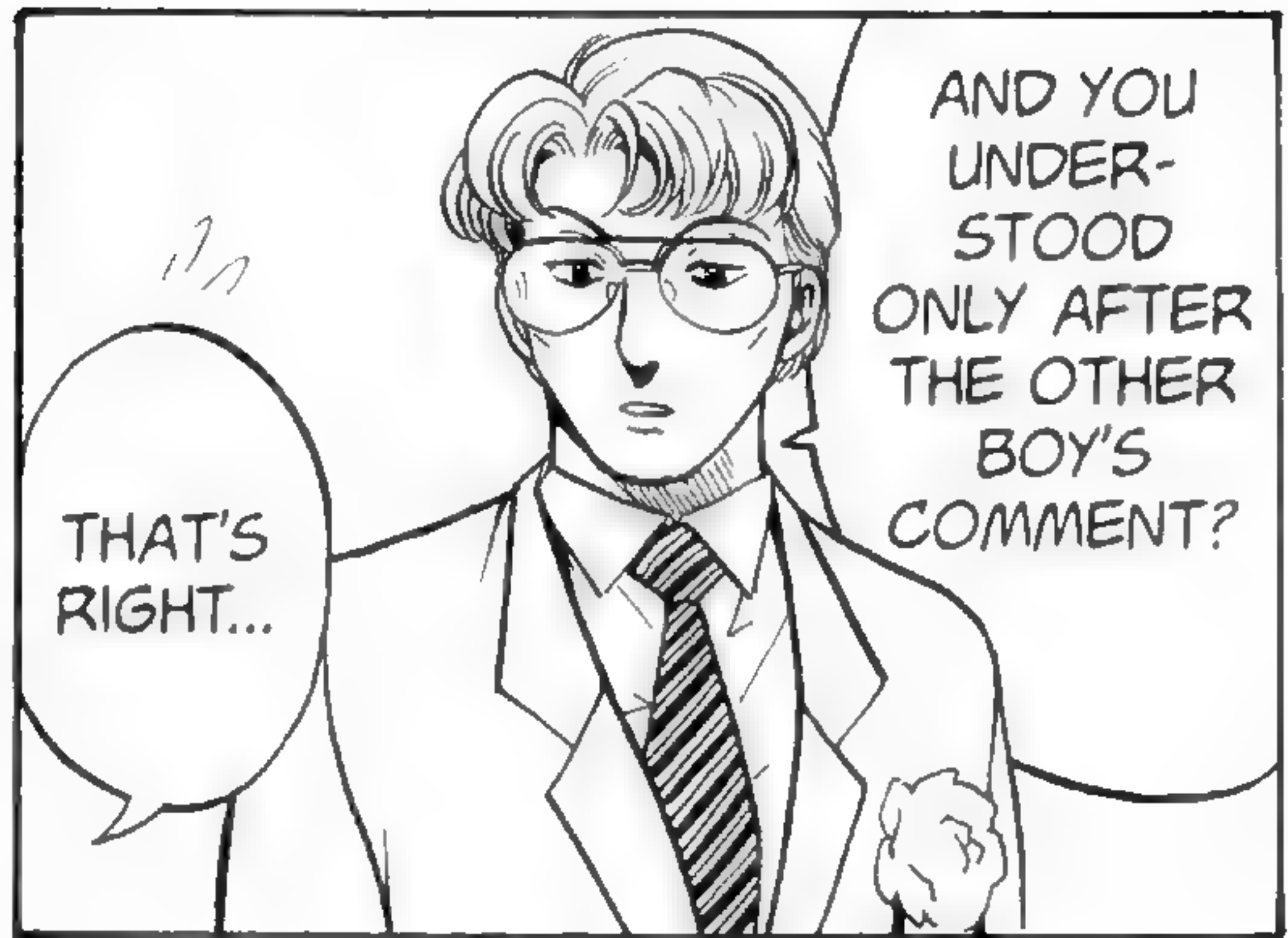
NO, SIR...

DID YOU RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WAS THE KEY POINT?

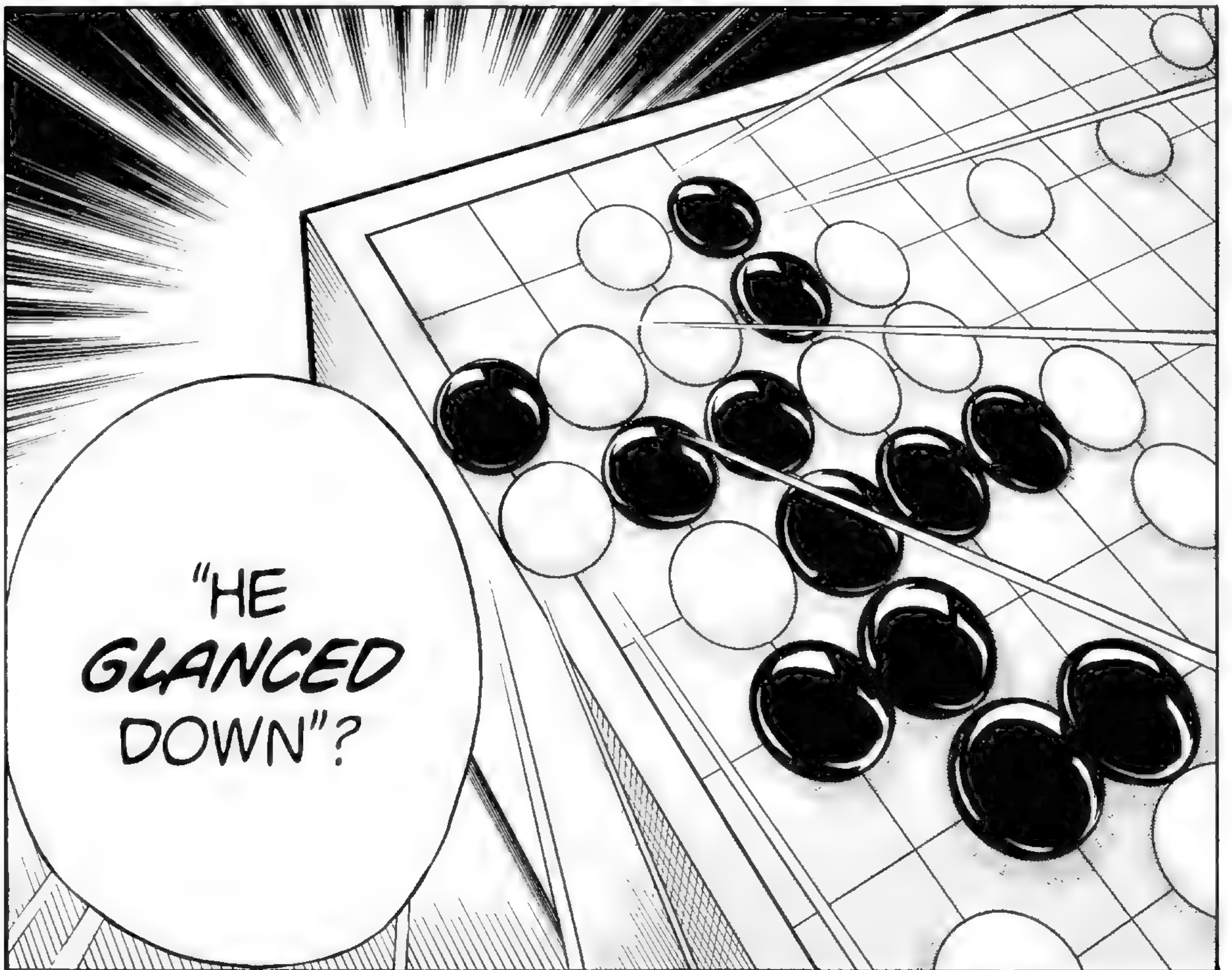
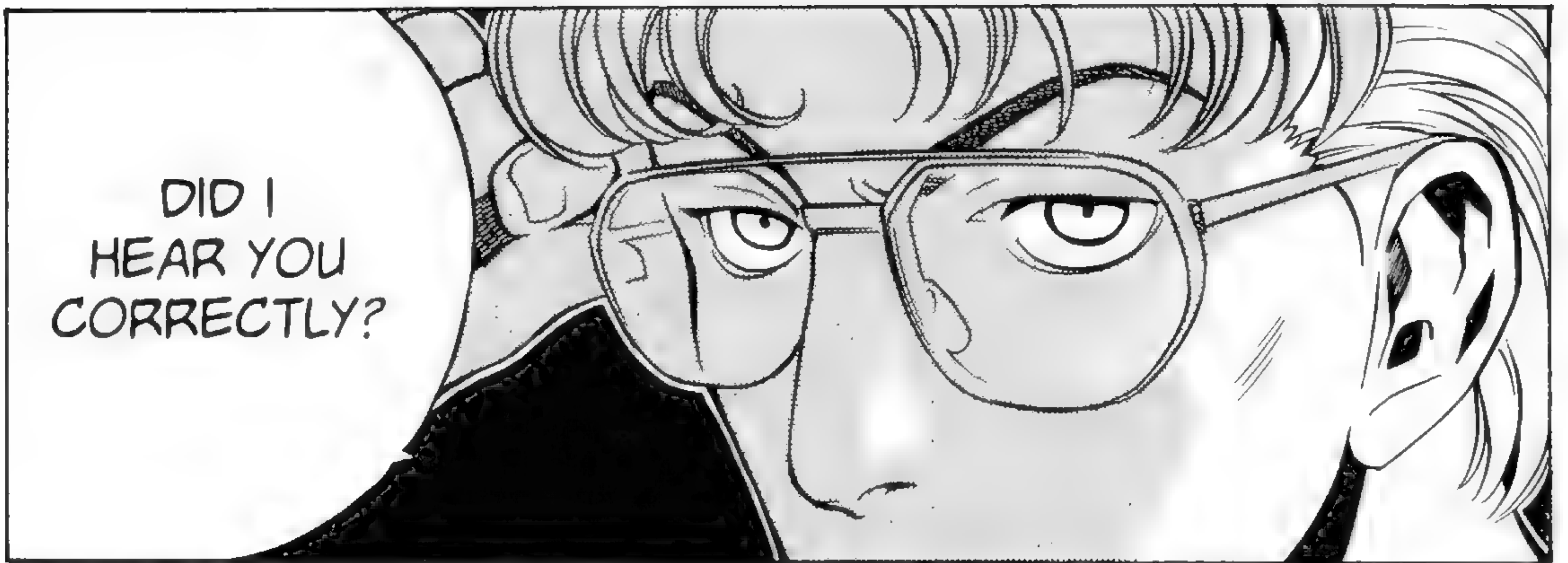


AND HOW ABOUT YOU...?









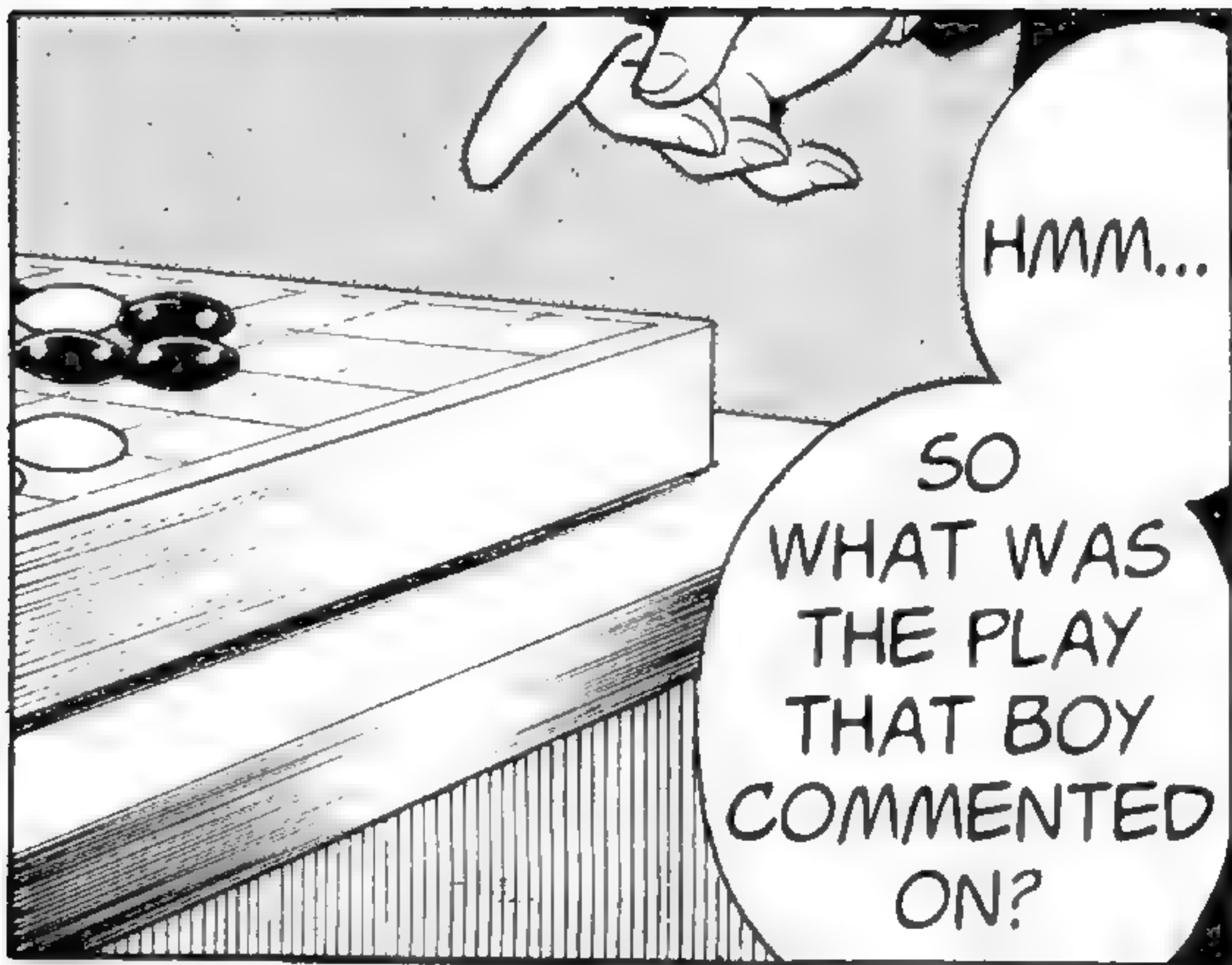




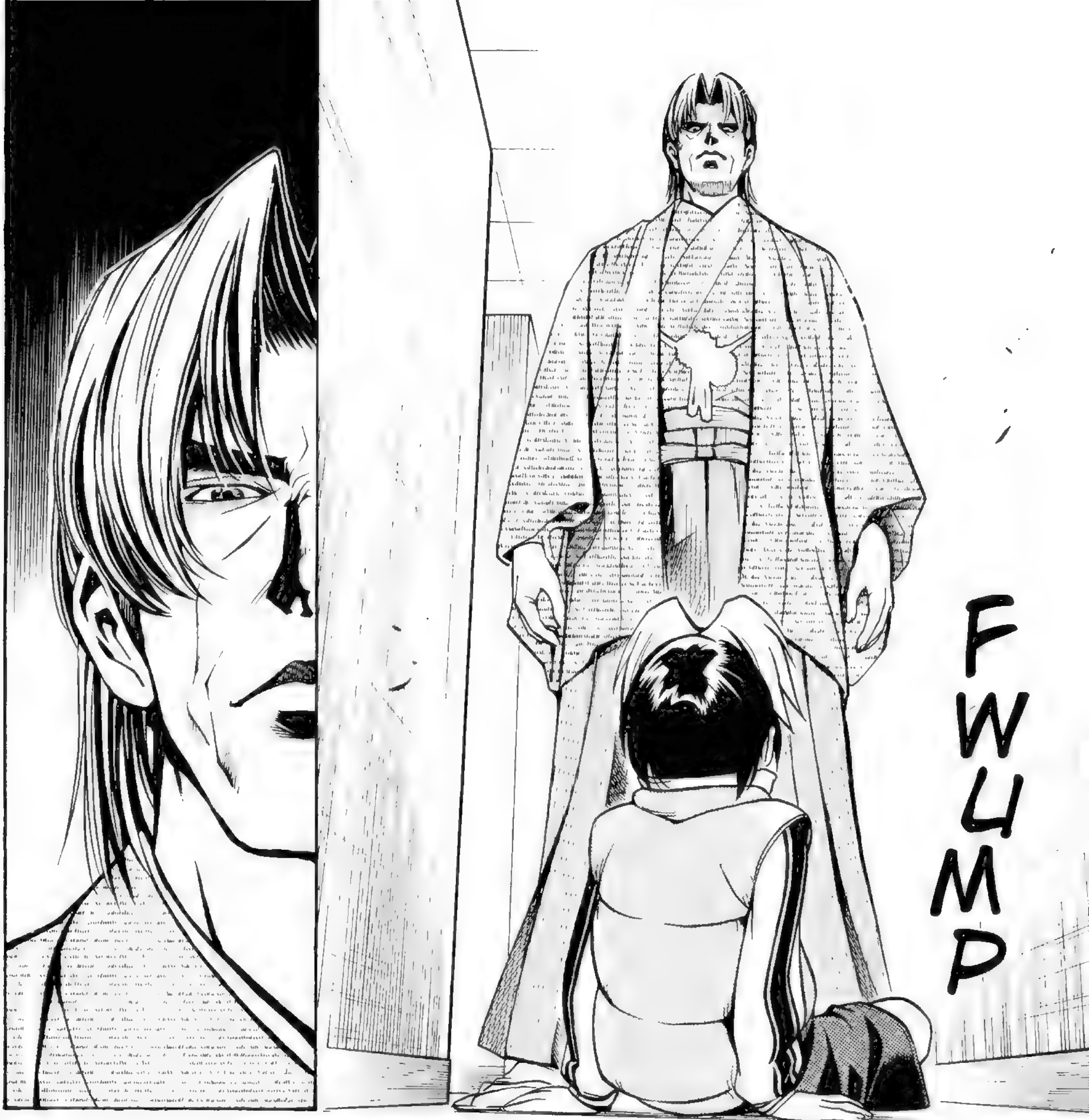
















He, too,  
endeavors  
to play  
the  
*Divine  
Move!*

That  
man...

I've  
seen him  
before...



SAI...?

?



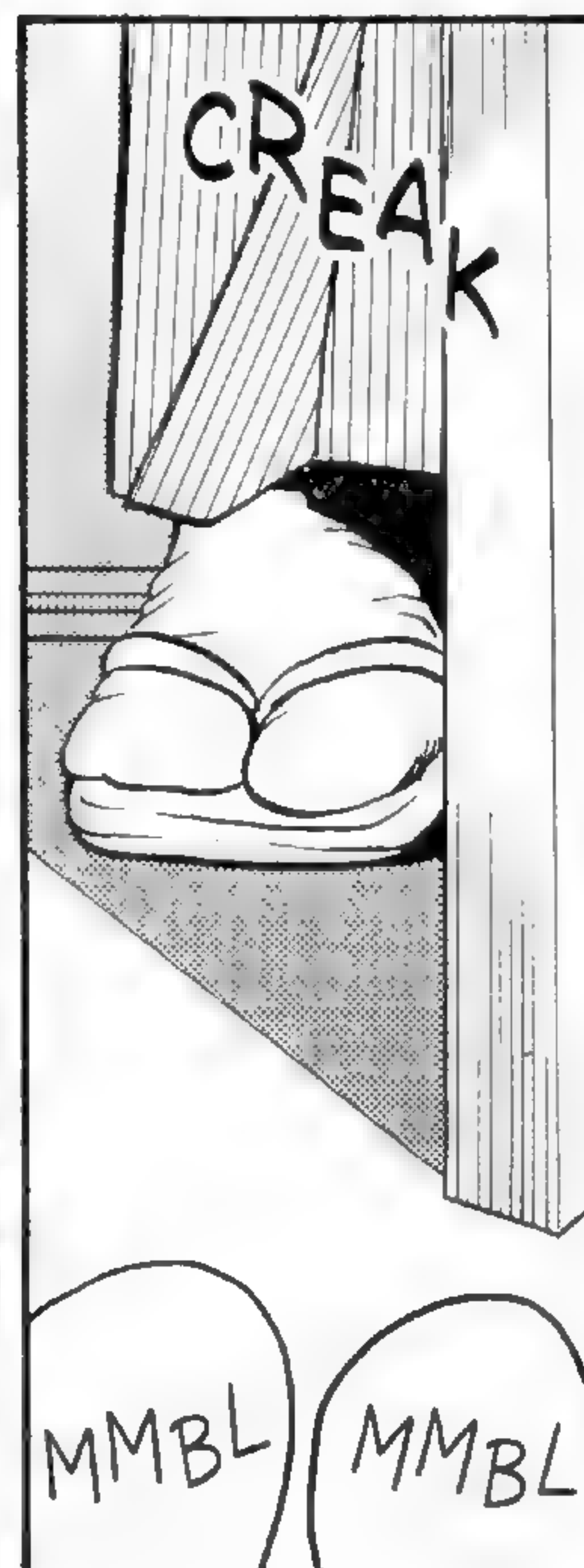
TAKE  
A LOOK  
AT THIS!



I UNDER-  
STAND  
THERE  
WAS SOME  
TROUBLE.

K  
L  
K

TOYA  
MEIJIN...

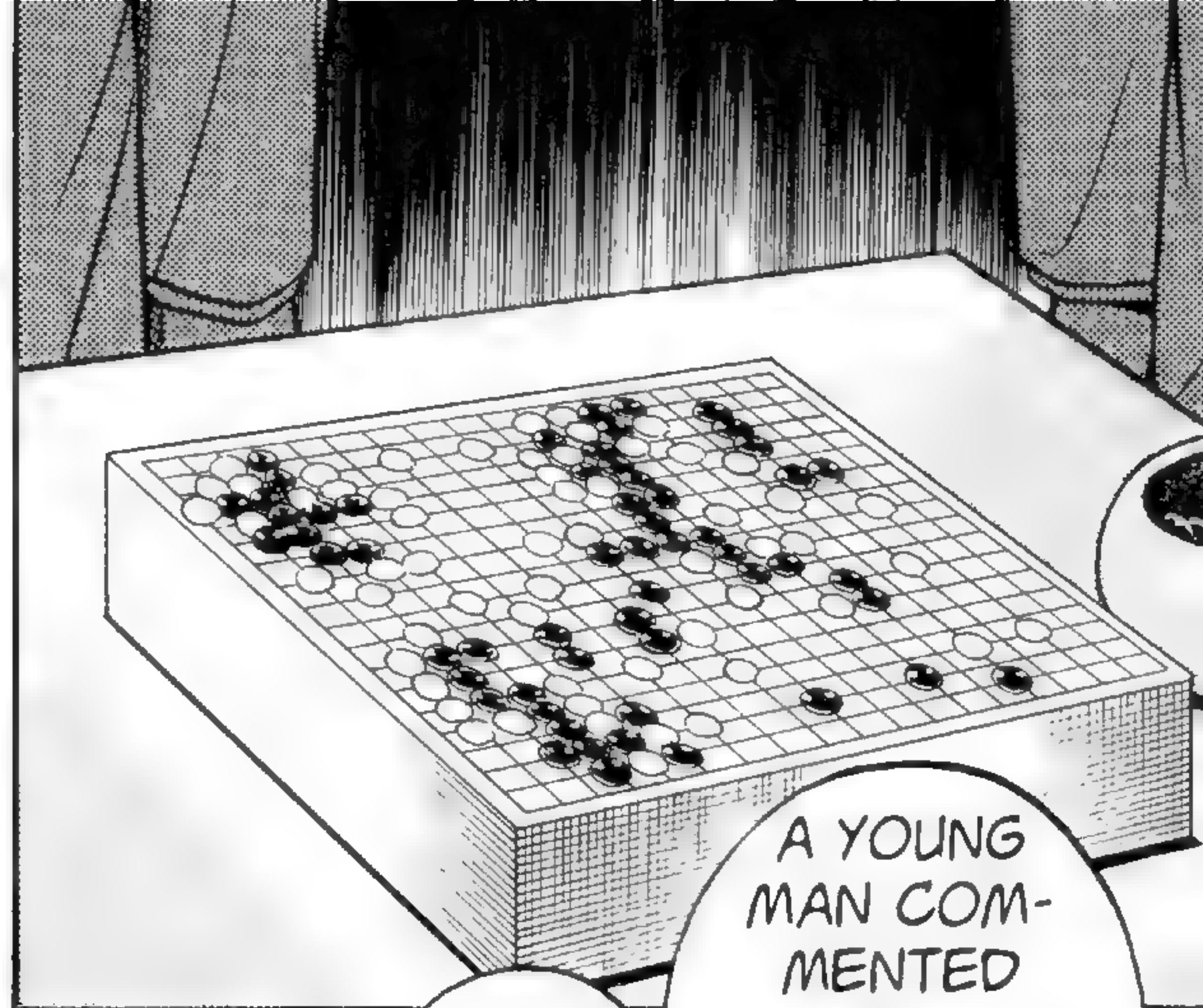
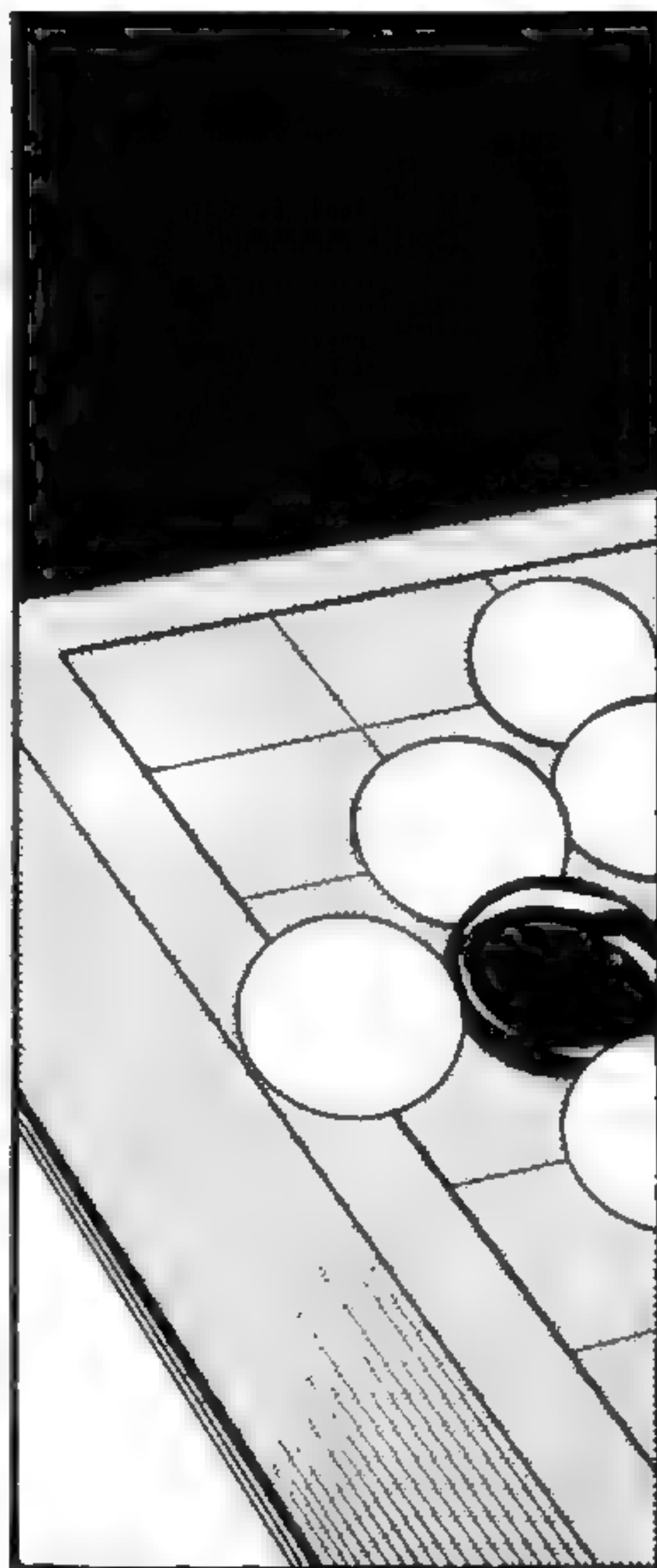


CREAK

MMBL

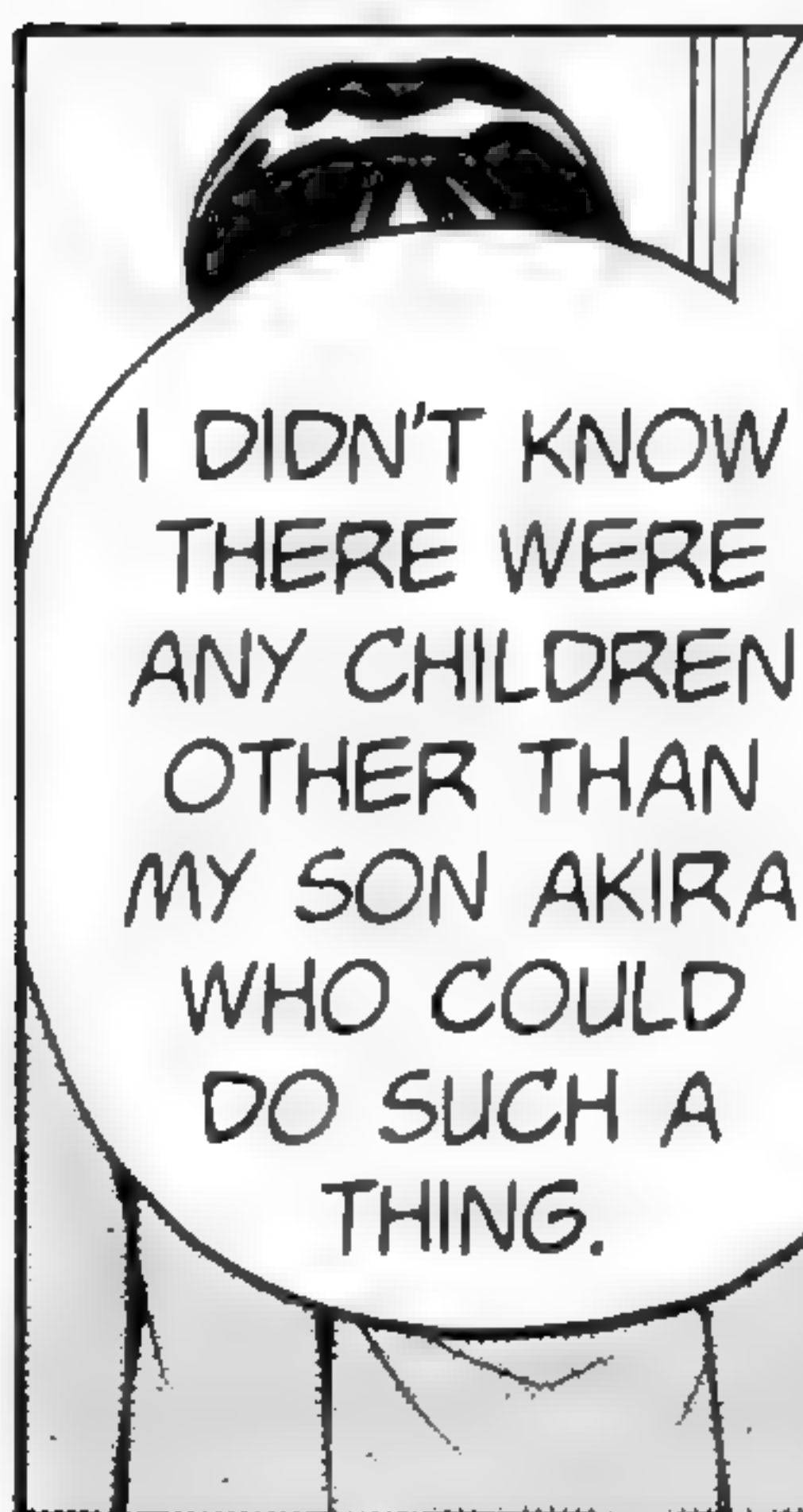
MMBL





BUT  
HE ONLY  
**GLANCED**  
AT THE  
BOARD.

A YOUNG  
MAN COM-  
MENTED  
ON THIS. IT  
MIGHT EVEN  
TAKE A PRO  
SOME TIME  
TO SEE THE  
PROPER  
PLAY...



I DIDN'T KNOW  
THERE WERE  
ANY CHILDREN  
OTHER THAN  
MY SON AKIRA  
WHO COULD  
DO SUCH A  
THING.



HE  
IMMEDIATELY  
RECOGNIZED  
THE KEY  
POINT...



I SEE...



SHUF


NO  
MATTER...



S-SORRY...

AND **THEY**  
LET HIM GO  
WITHOUT  
EVEN  
GETTING HIS  
NAME...

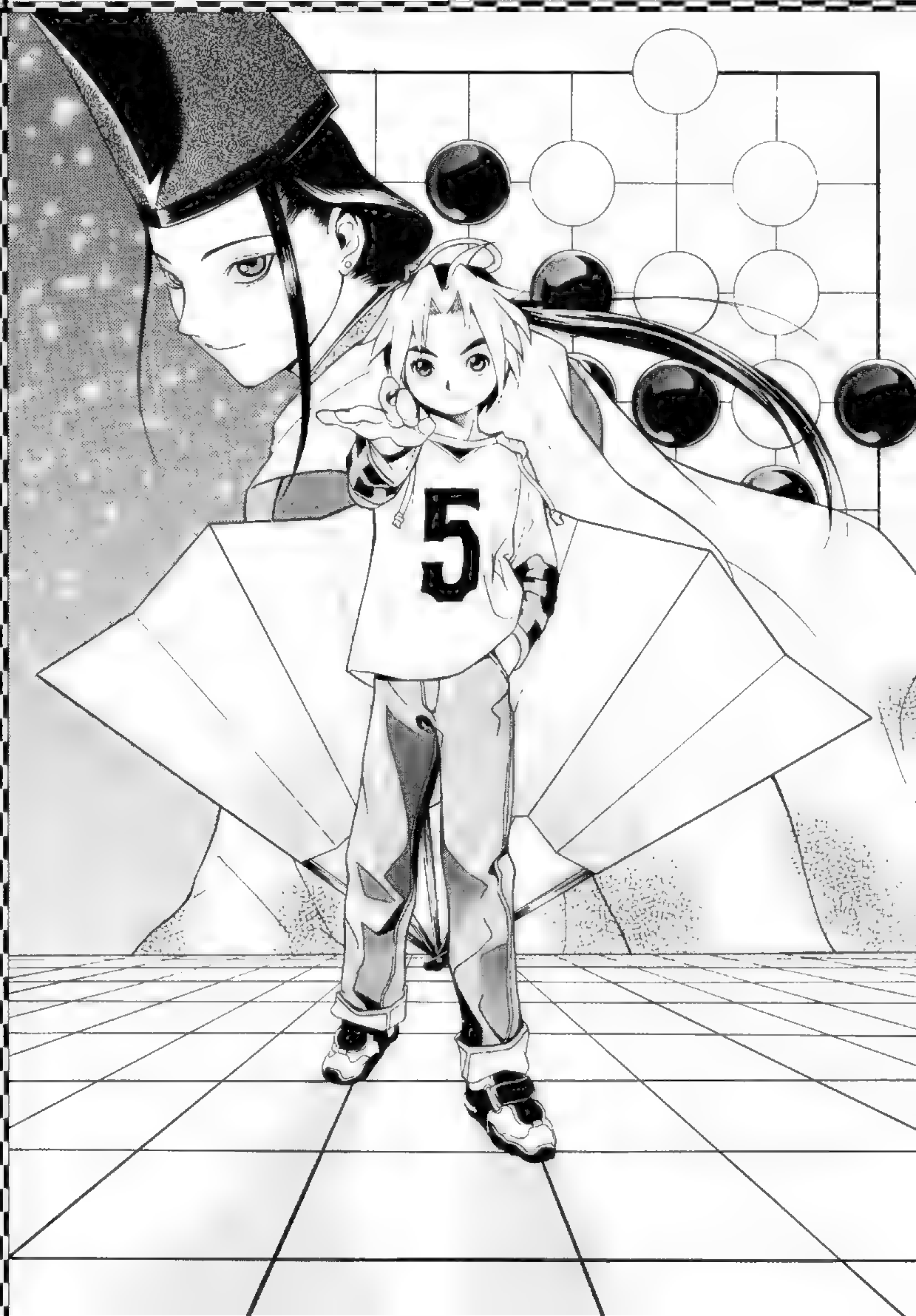




IF THIS  
YOUNG MAN  
IS INDEED  
SUCH A  
STRONG  
PLAYER...

SOONER  
OR LATER  
HE WILL  
MAKE HIS  
PRESENCE  
KNOWN TO  
THE PROS.



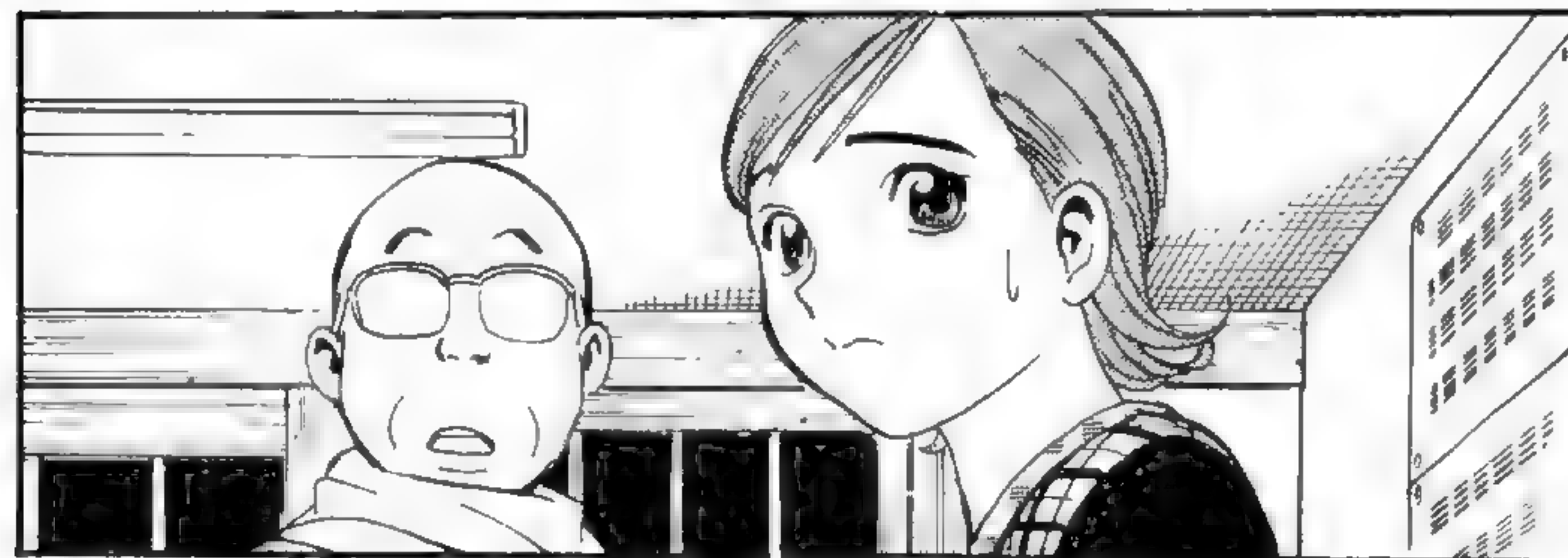




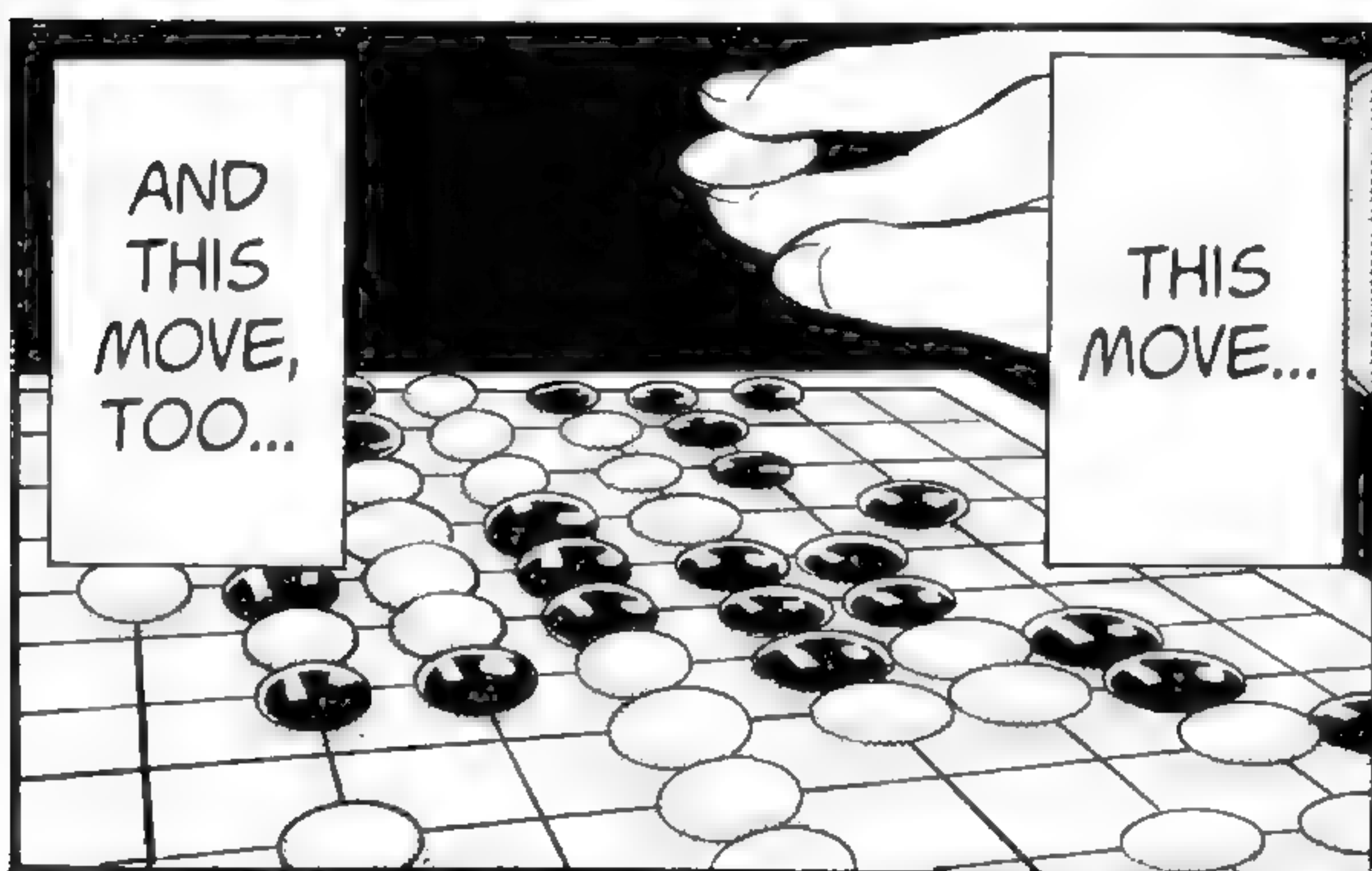
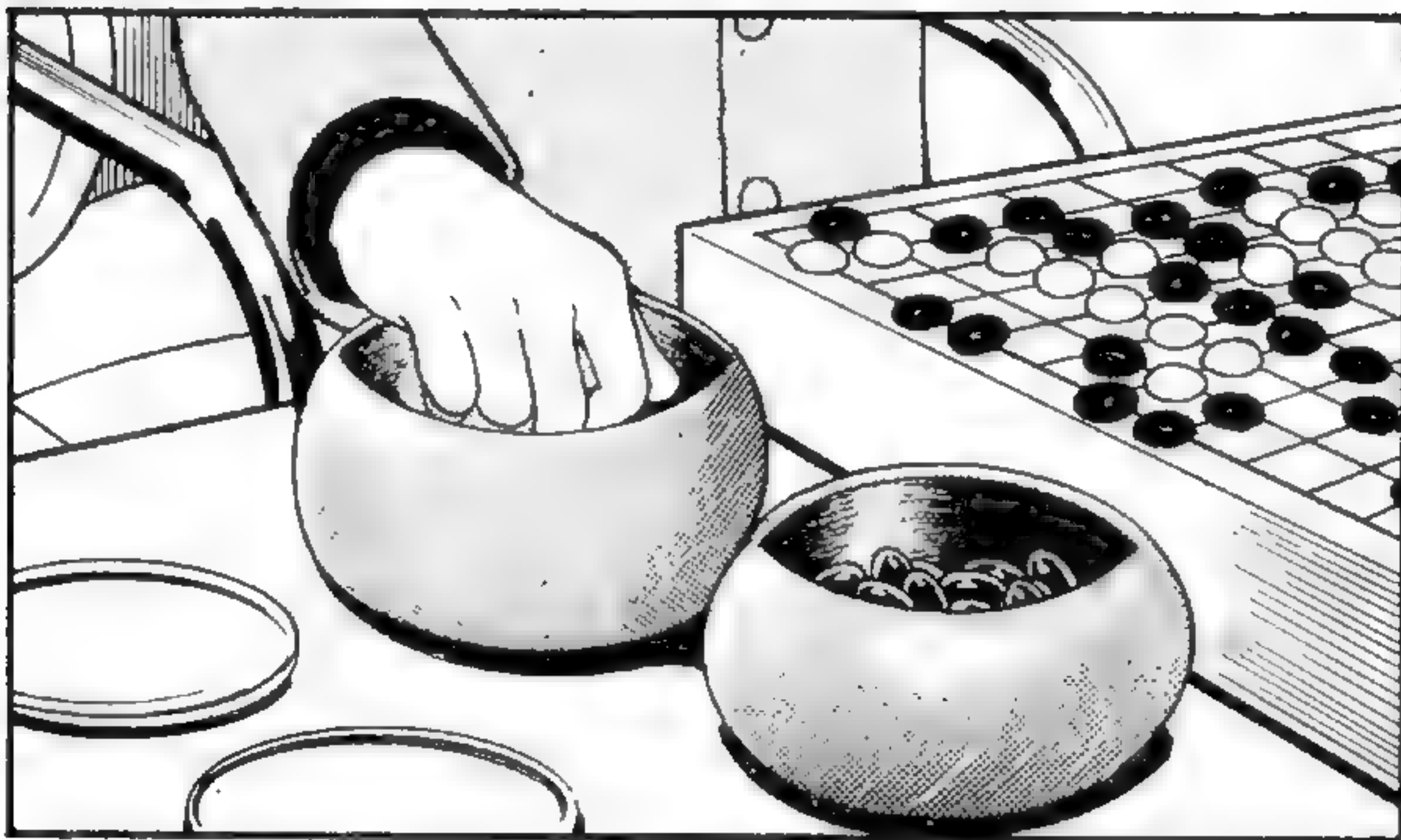


**GAME 4 "Inexcusable"**













AKIRA...?



HIKARU  
SHINDO!



I'M...  
SORRY...

.....



IT'S  
OKAY  
IF YOU  
DON'T  
FEEL  
LIKE  
IT...

MR.  
HIROSE  
WANTED  
YOU TO  
PLAY A  
TEACHING  
GAME  
WITH HIM...



I GUESS  
ALL YOU  
CAN DO  
IS WAIT  
FOR  
HIM TO  
COME  
BACK.

WE DON'T  
KNOW  
ANYTHING  
ABOUT  
THAT BOY  
EXCEPT  
HIS  
NAME.

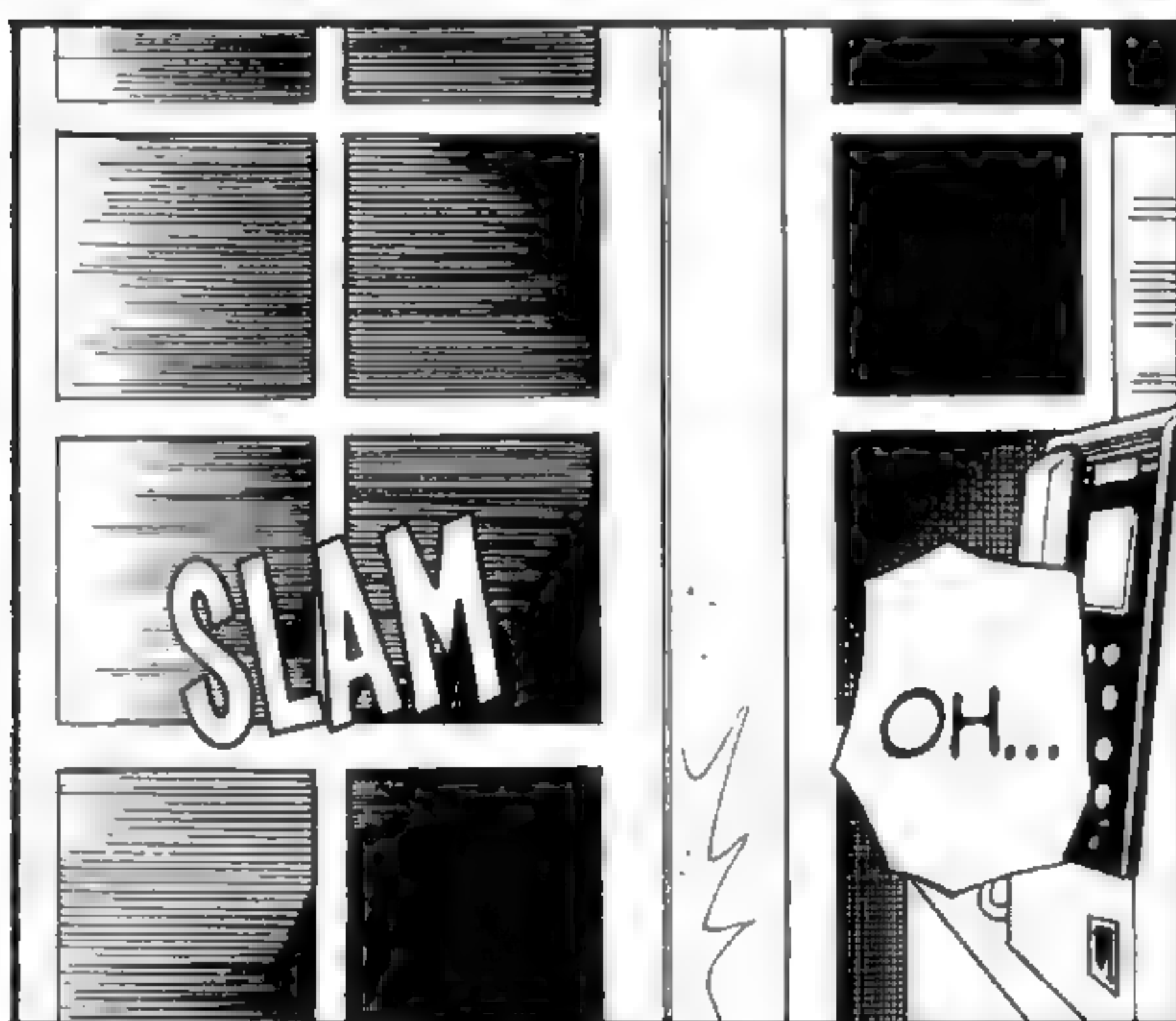


.....

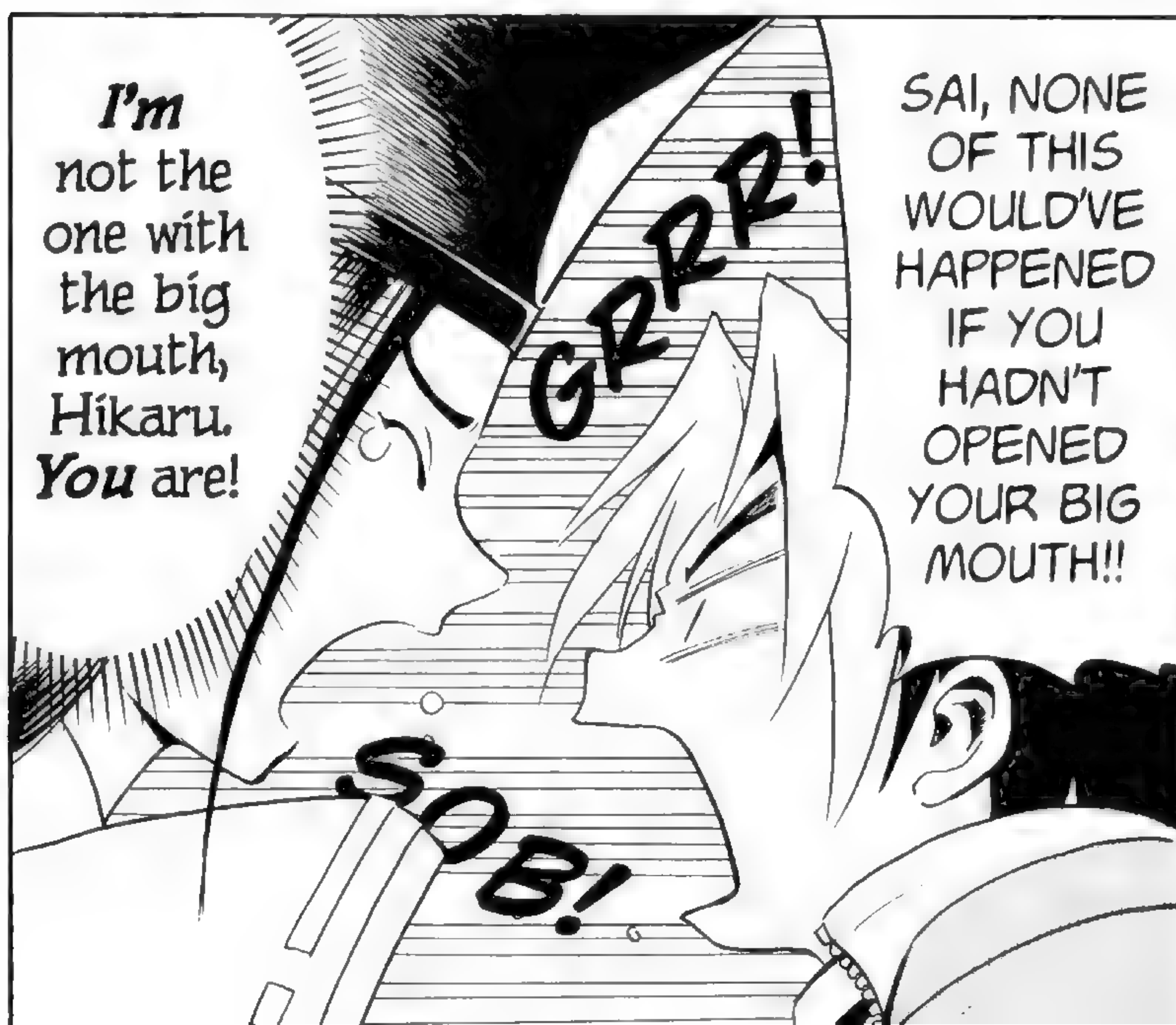
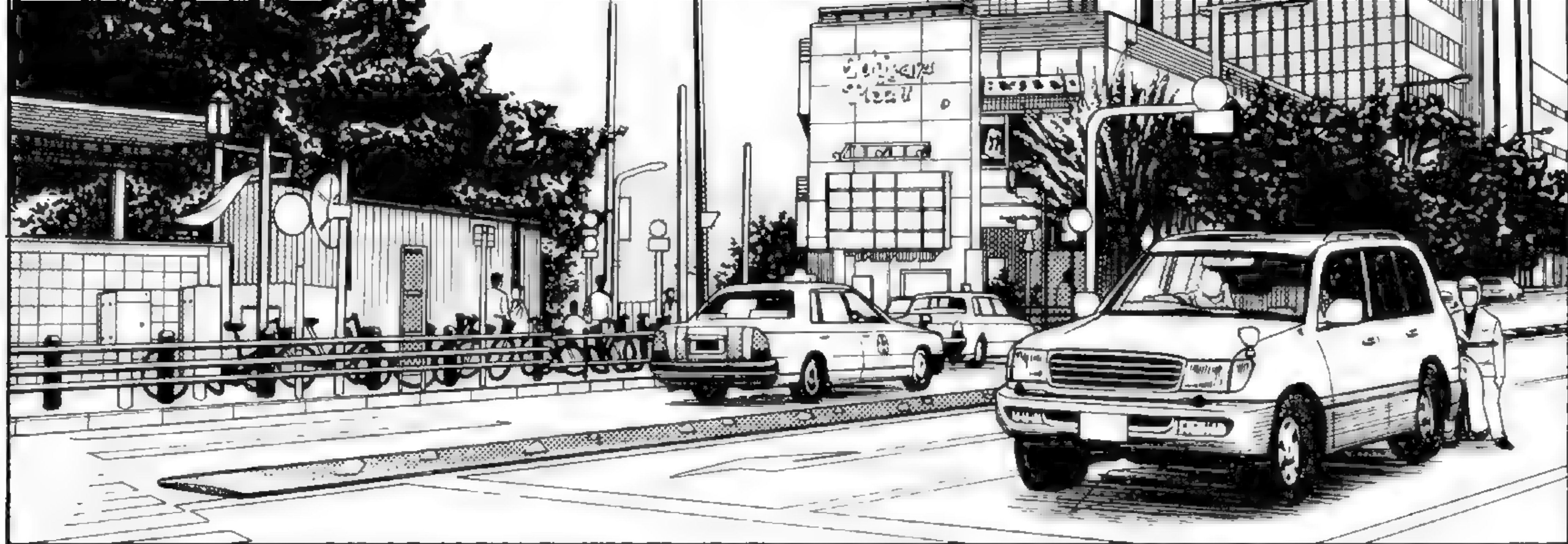




READ THIS WAY









READ THIS WAY



HIKARU SHINDO!



I'M NEVER GOING TO PLAY GO EVER AGAIN! SO THERE!

JAB PUNCH

OH! YOU WANNA FIGHT, DO YA? WELL HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS?

GRR!

JAB



FWISH



AKIRA...

huf



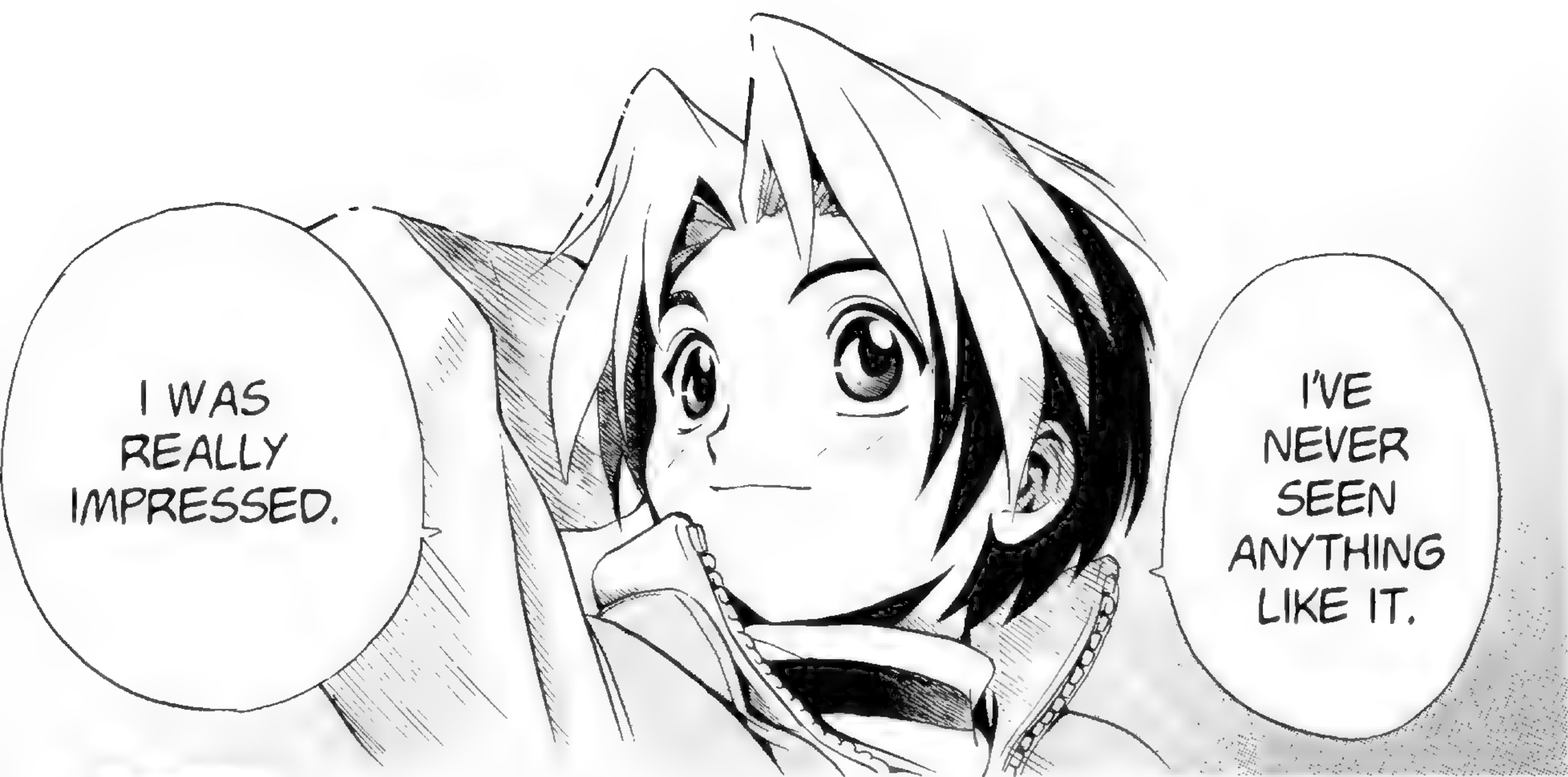
huf





IT WAS REALLY SOMETHING.





I WAS  
REALLY  
IMPRESSED.

I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN  
ANYTHING  
LIKE IT.



.....

LET ME  
SEE YOUR  
HAND.



INTENSITY?

ME?



DON'T  
*YOU*  
HAVE  
ANY  
INTEN-  
SITY?

IMPRES-  
SED?

HUH?



.....



MY  
HAND?









OF  
COURSE  
I AM...



HOW ABOUT  
YOU? ARE  
*YOU* GOING  
TO BECOME  
A PRO?



THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
MEIJIN  
TITLE  
RECEIVES  
¥28  
MILLION.\*

THEY  
GET  
MONEY  
WHEN  
THEY WIN  
TOURNA-  
MENTS,  
RIGHT?



HMM... DO  
PROFES-  
SIONAL GO  
PLAYERS  
MAKE A LOT  
OF MONEY?

\*approximately \$240,000



¥120  
million\*

THERE ARE 8  
TITLES IN ALL,  
AND IF YOU  
WIN THEM ALL  
YOU GET A  
TOTAL OF ¥120  
MILLION.

H-HOW MANY  
TITLES ARE  
THERE, AND  
HOW MUCH DO  
YOU GET IF YOU  
WIN THEM ALL?



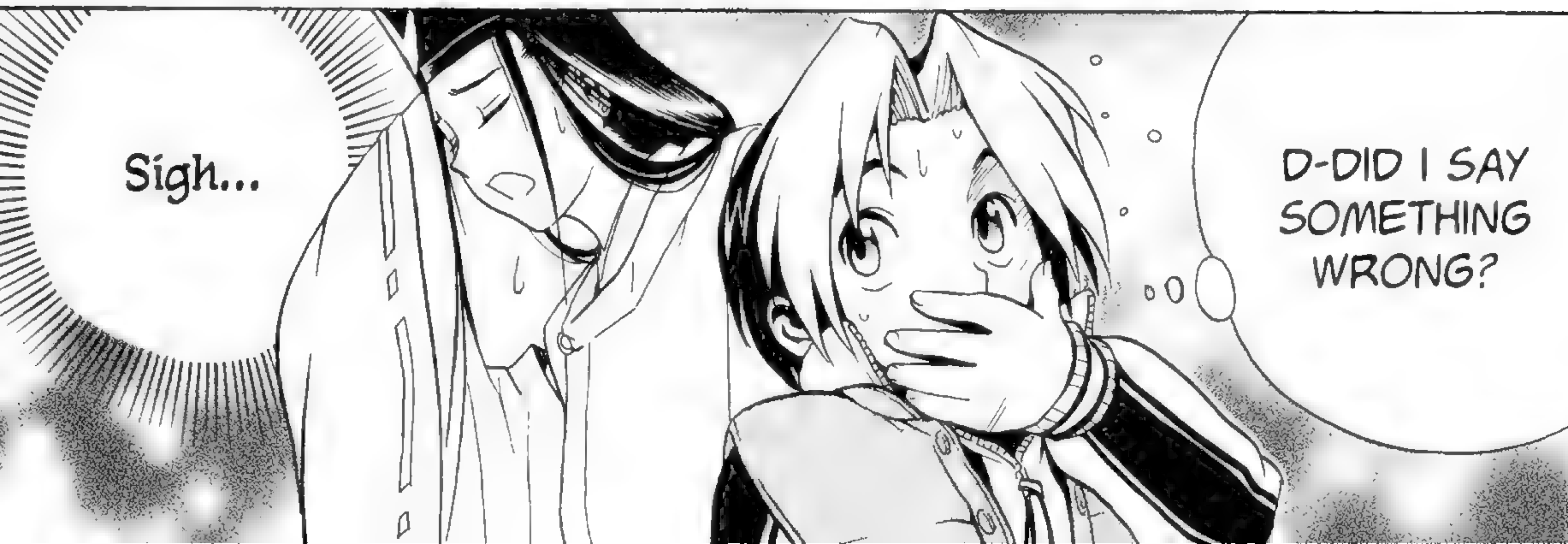
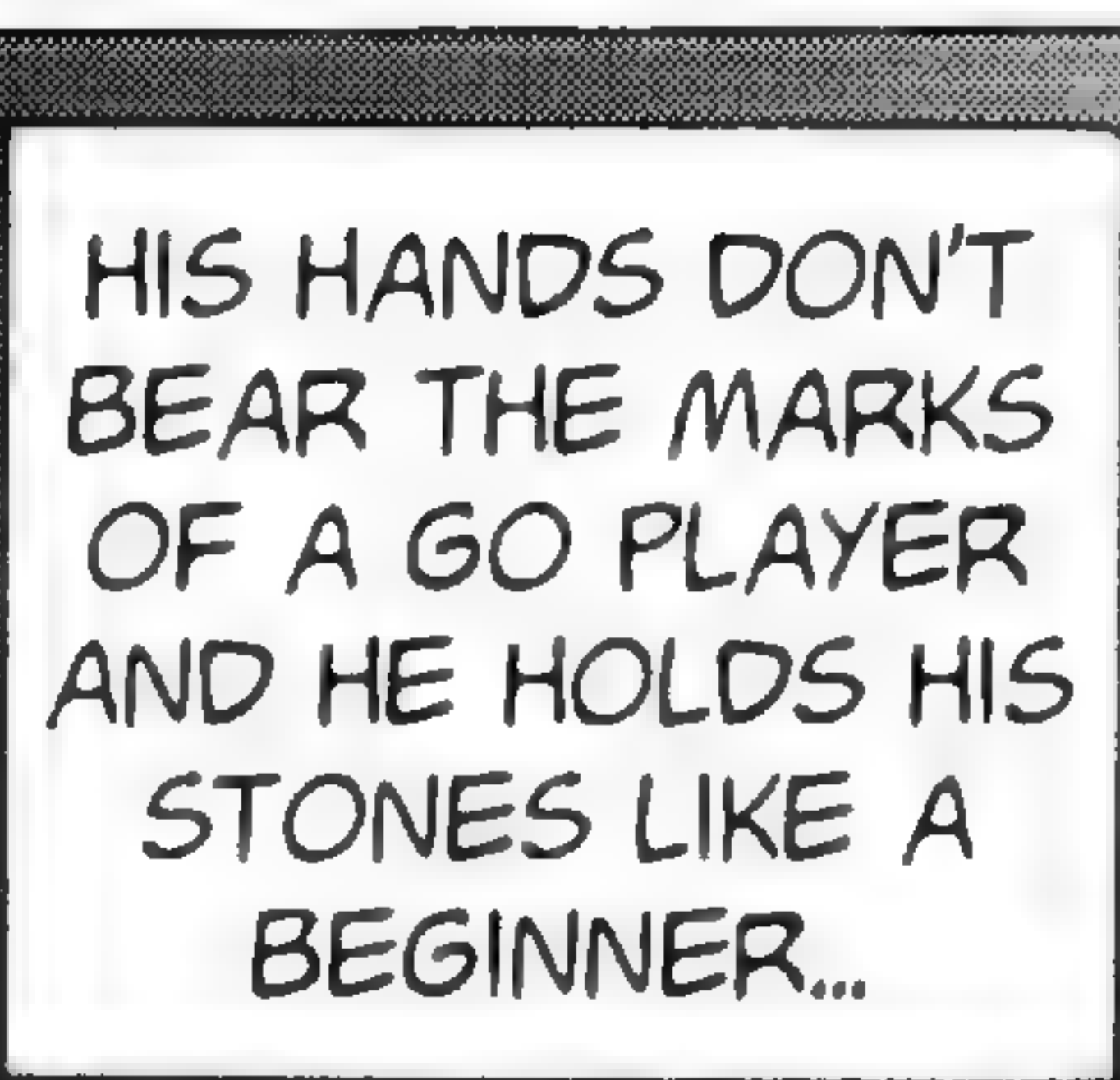
THE  
WINNER  
OF THE  
KISEI  
TITLE  
RECEIVES  
¥33  
MILLION.\*

\*approximately \$280,000













"DABBLE  
AROUND?"



THERE ARE  
MANY WHO  
HAVE WORKED  
HARD AND  
STRUGGLED  
AGAINST  
DESPAIR, YET  
THEY STILL  
NEVER MAKE IT.

TENACIOUS  
PERSE-  
VERANCE  
AND HARD  
WORK...



HOW  
COULD  
I HAVE  
LOST TO  
SOMEONE  
LIKE  
*THIS?!*

AND  
YOU...

I'VE SEEN  
MANY  
PLAYERS LIKE  
THAT WHO  
STUDY WITH  
MY FATHER.

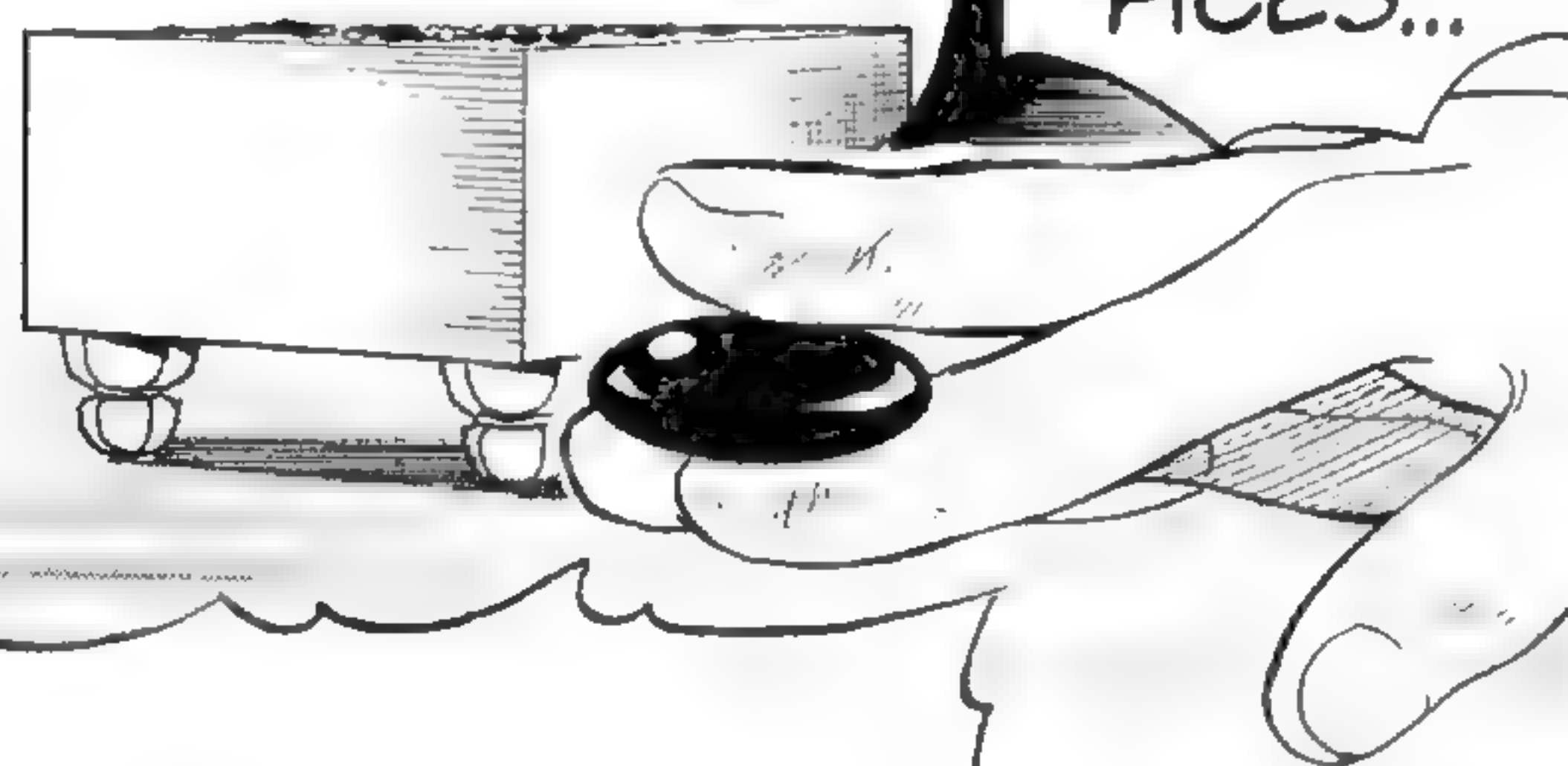


I UNDERESTI-  
MATED HIM  
BECAUSE  
I THOUGHT  
HE WAS A  
BEGINNER.  
THEN I PAN-  
ICKED AND  
DESTROYED  
MYSELF.

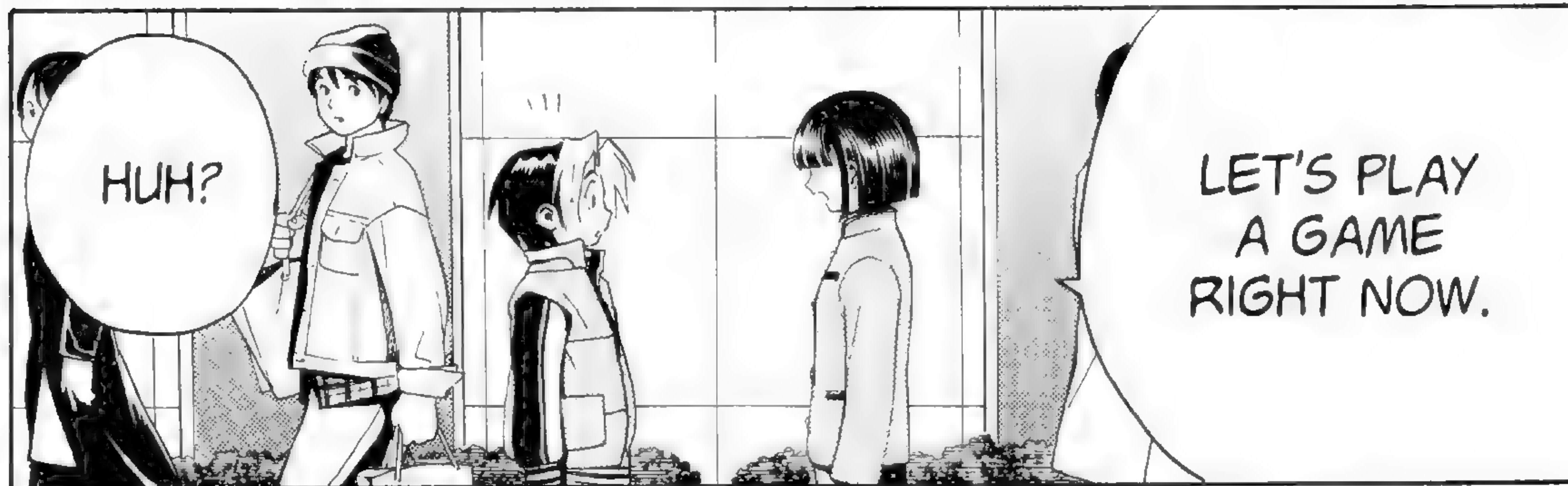
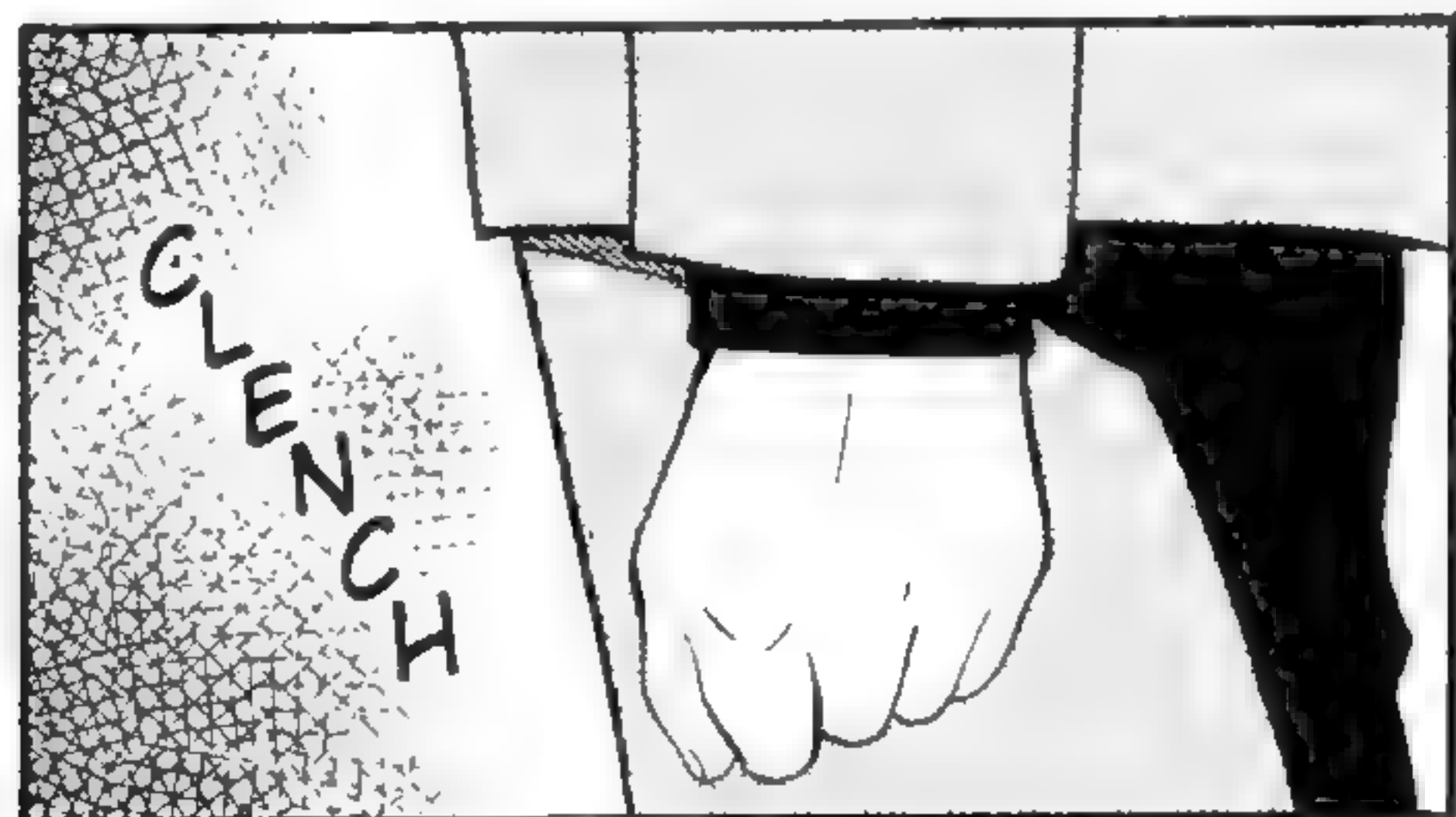
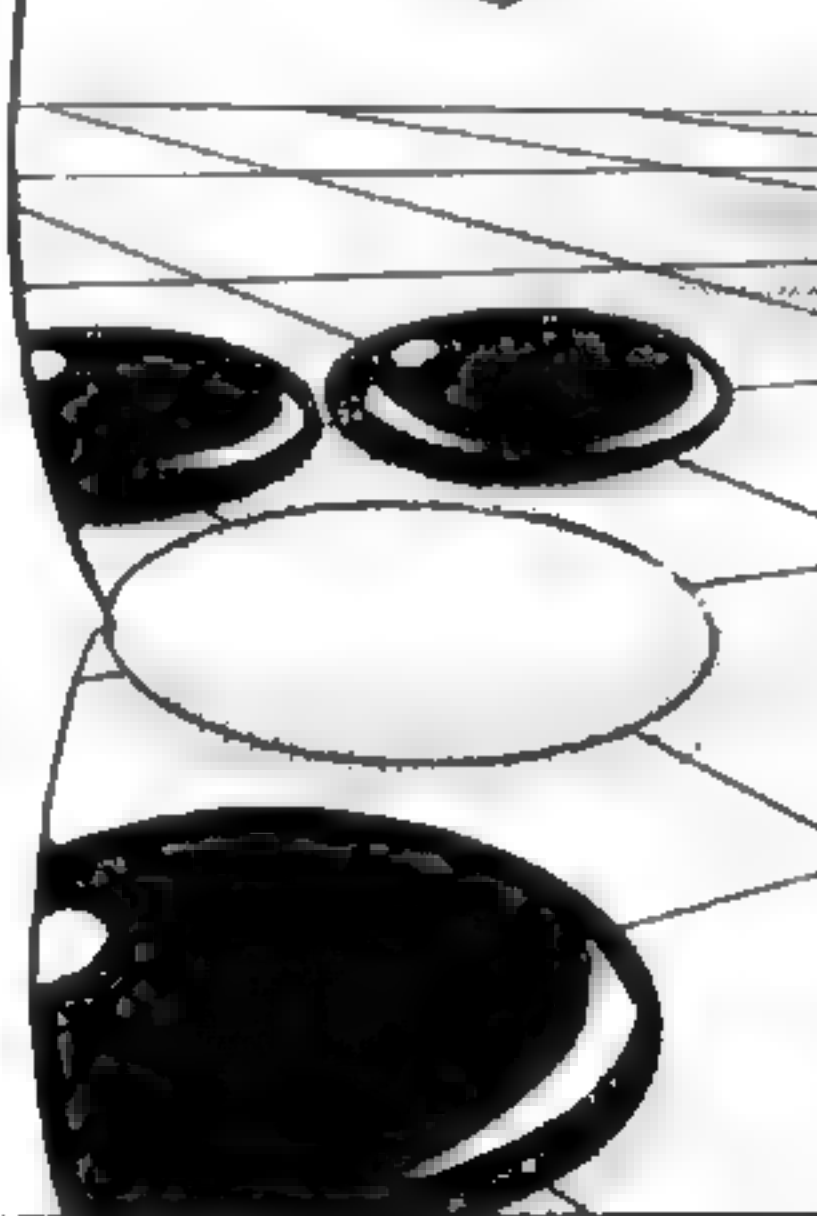


HOW?! HOW COULD I  
HAVE LOST TO *HIM*?  
MAYBE I UNDERESTI-  
MATED HIM AND LET  
DOWN MY GUARD...

I, TOO,  
HAVE  
WORKED  
HARD AND  
MADE  
SACRI-  
FICES...



I'VE PLAYED HOURS  
AND HOURS OF GO  
EVERY DAY SINCE I  
WAS A LITTLE KID.  
I'VE WORKED SO  
HARD...



HUH?

LET'S PLAY  
A GAME  
RIGHT NOW.

**GRRR!!**

And it's  
all your  
fault!!

Hikaru!  
We hardly  
spent any  
time at the  
Go tour-  
nament!

YIKES!  
OKAY,  
OKAY!

HIKARU

I THINK  
I'VE  
ALREADY  
HAD MY  
FILL OF  
GO FOR  
TODAY  
...

RIGHT  
NOW?







...THEN  
YOU SURELY  
WON'T LOSE  
TO ME HERE  
AND NOW.



AND IF  
SOMEDAY,  
YOU TOO,  
ARE GOING  
TO "DABBLE  
AROUND AND  
BECOME A  
PRO"...

YES...



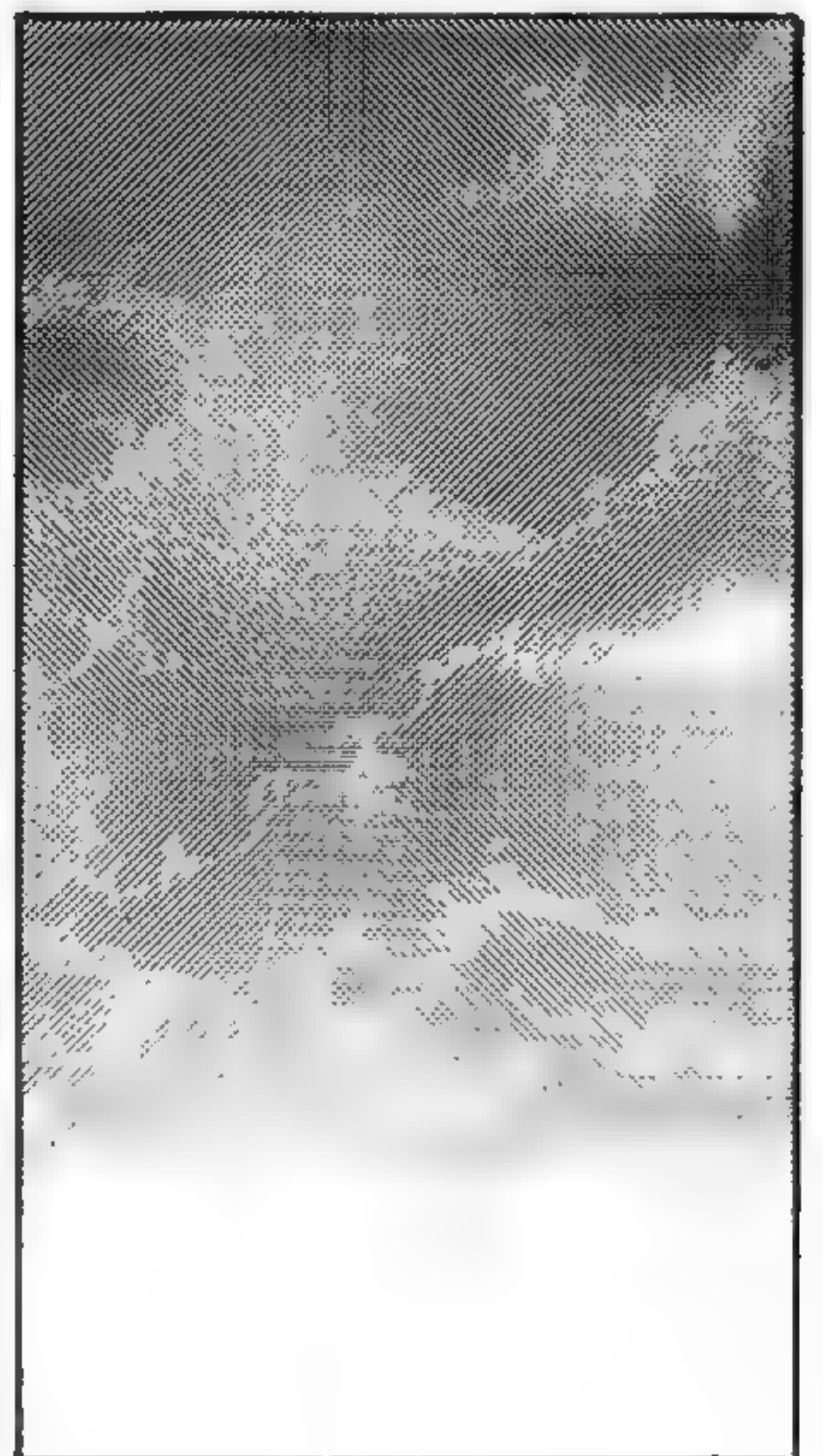
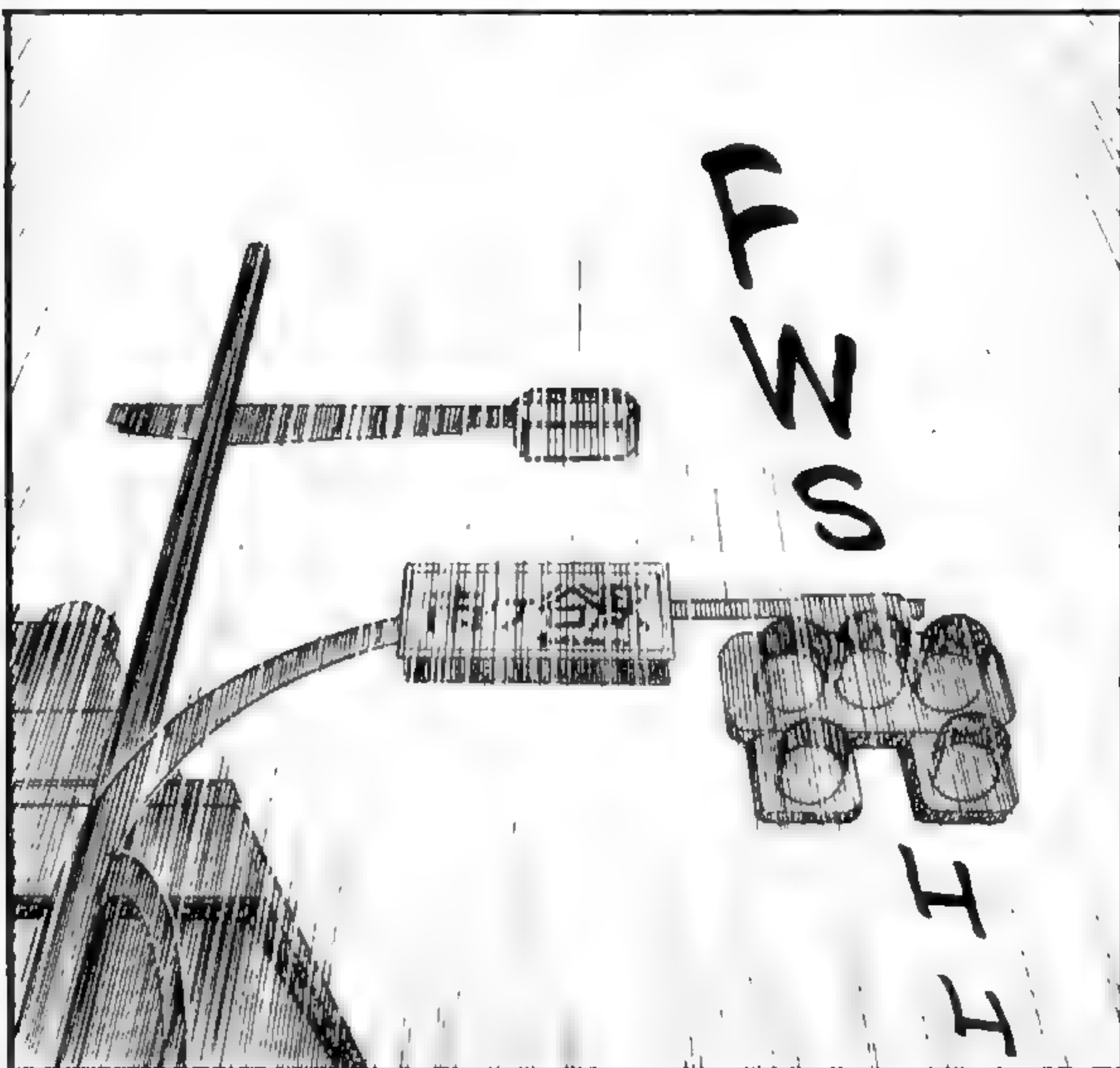
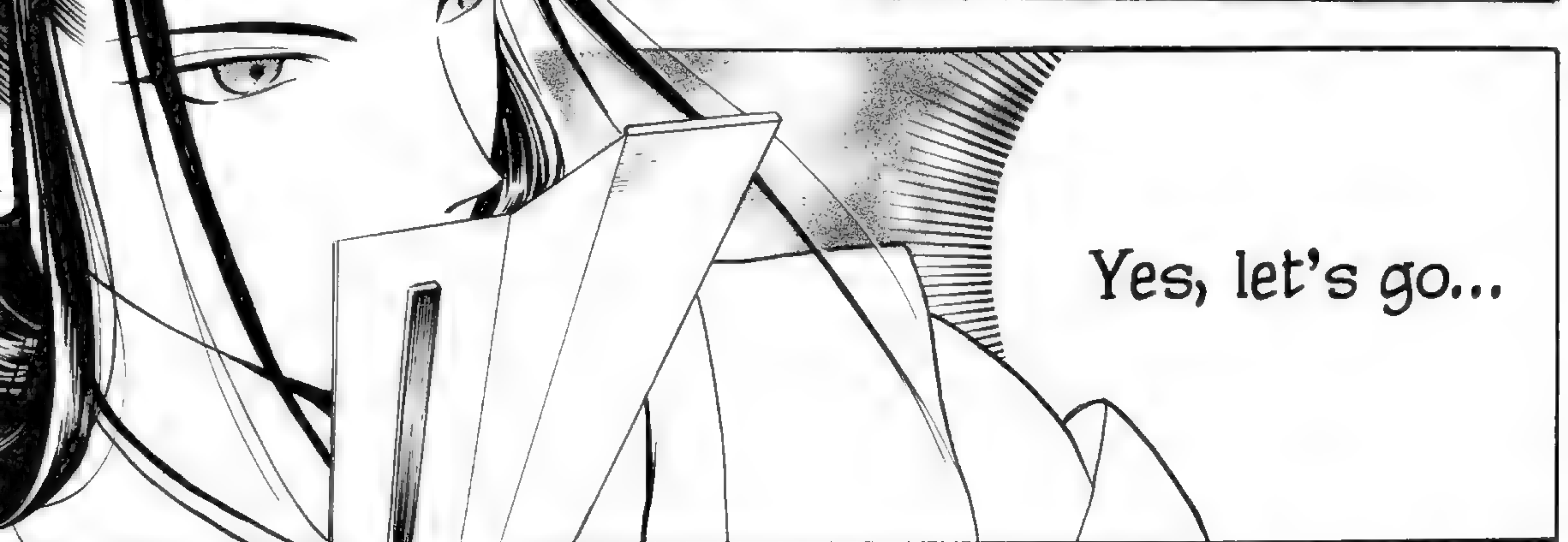
I AM  
GOING  
TO  
BECOME  
A PRO.



FWUP

C'MON!  
LET'S  
GO...







I MUST  
NOT LOSE...



WAIT,  
AKIRA!

SPLASH

SLOW  
DOWN!

SPLASH

GRAB



I AM STRIVING  
TO PLAY "THE  
DIVINE MOVE"...  
I MUST NOT  
LOSE!



THAT PLAY WAS  
CONSIDERED  
A GOOD MOVE  
IN THE PAST  
WHEN KOMI DID  
NOT EXIST.



HIKARU  
SHINDO IS NO  
BEGINNER. I  
MUST NOT  
UNDERESTI-  
MATE HIM.

BUT THE  
SHAPES OF  
HIS JOSEKI  
ARE OUT-  
DATED--HE  
EVEN PLAYED  
"THE SHUSAKU  
DIAGONAL."













THEN  
YOU  
SHOULD  
BE ABLE  
TO BEAT  
ME  
EASILY.

IF YOU  
THINK  
YOU CAN  
BECOME  
A PRO  
WITHOUT  
WORKING  
HARD...

F  
S  
H  
H  
H

F  
S  
H  
H  
H

C'MON!  
LET'S  
GO!

I AM  
GOING  
TO BE A  
PRO!

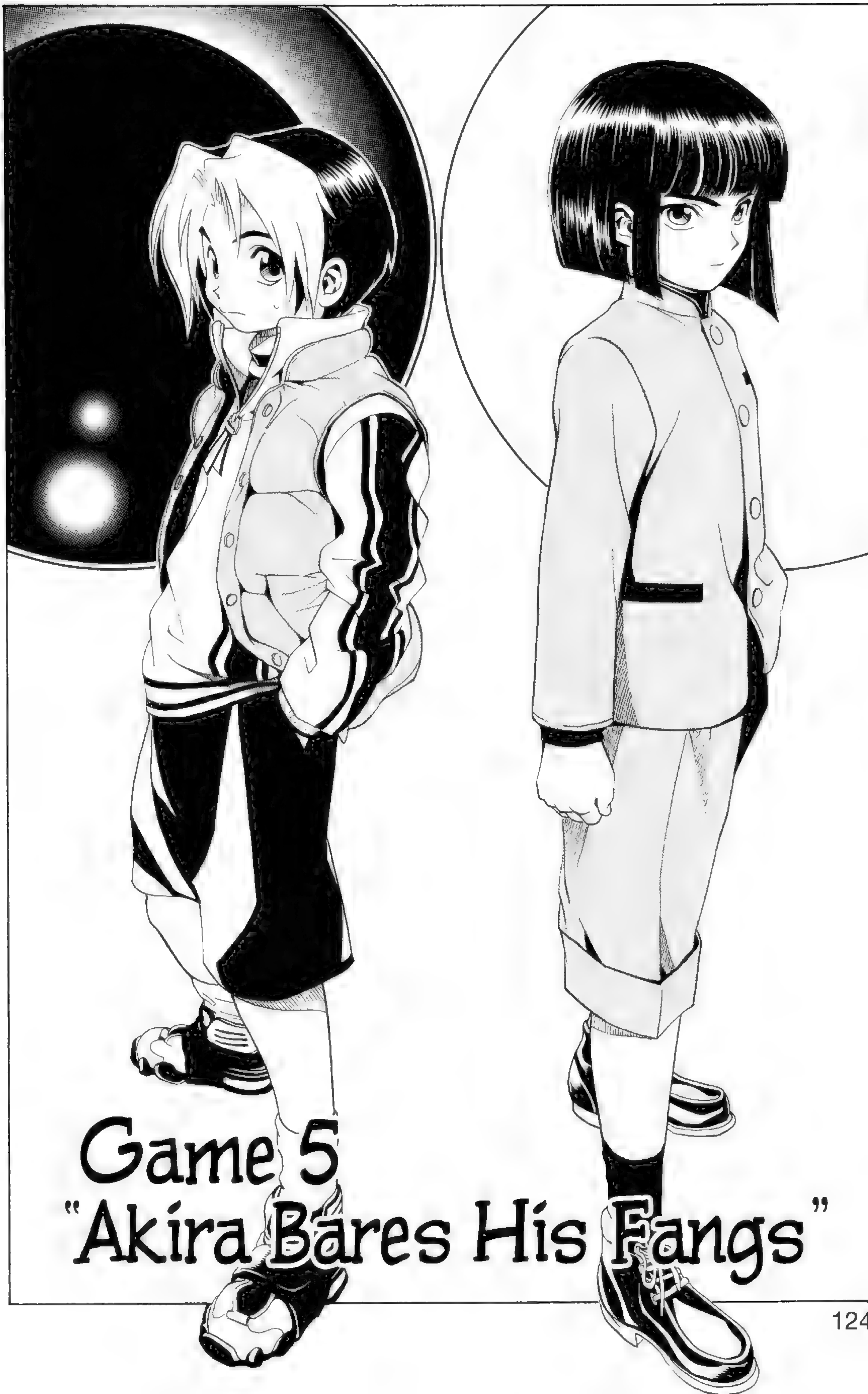
Game 5:  
"Akira Bares  
His Fangs"



I CAN'T  
LET  
MYSELF  
LOSE  
TO  
HIM!

I STRIVE  
TO PLAY  
"THE  
DIVINE  
MOVE"!





Game 5  
"Akira Bares His Fangs"



READ  
THIS  
WAY

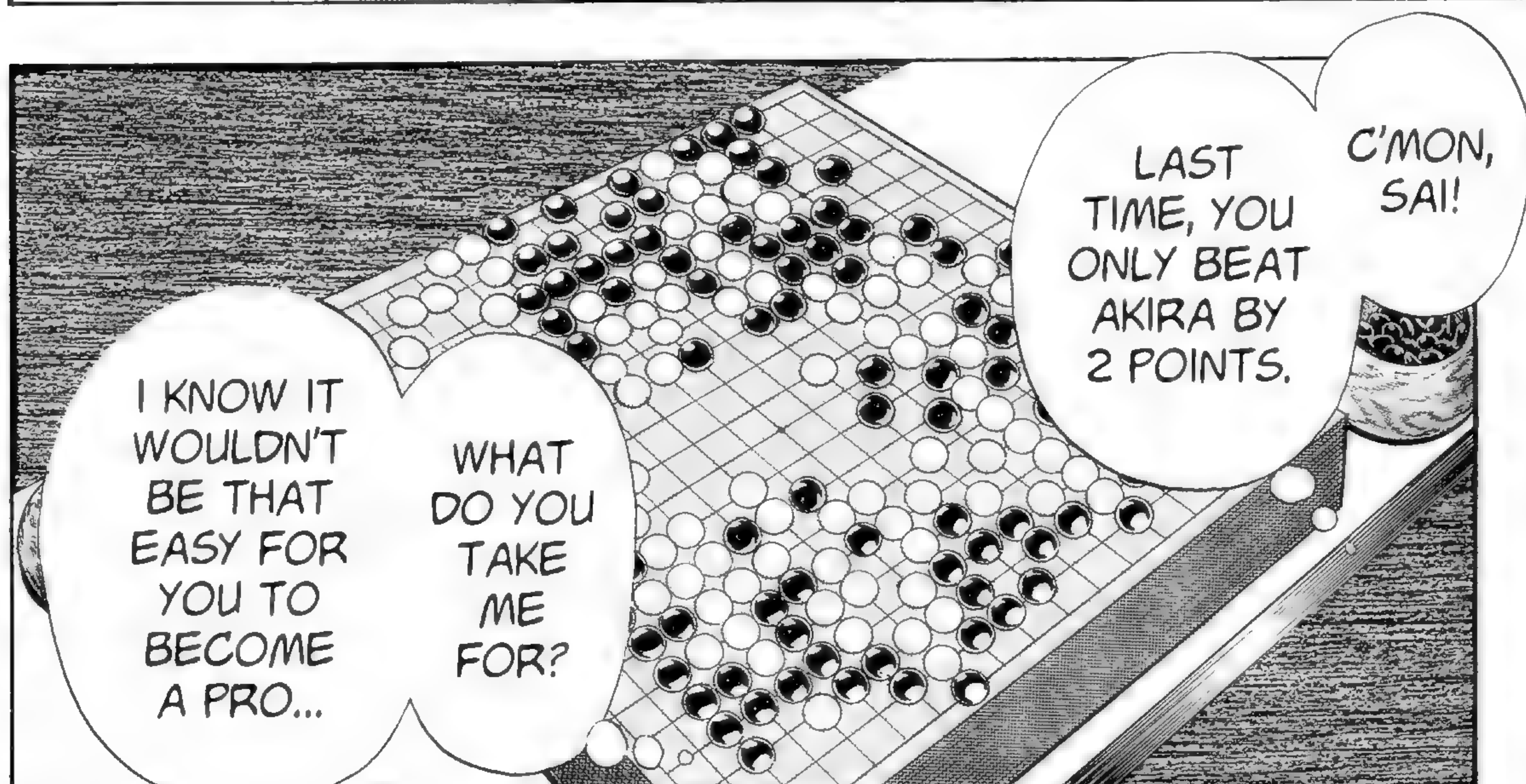






ARGH!  
CAN'T  
ANYONE  
TAKE A  
JOKE  
AROUND  
HERE?

A joke?  
Are you  
sure you  
were just  
kidding?



I KNOW IT  
WOULDN'T  
BE THAT  
EASY FOR  
YOU TO  
BECOME  
A PRO...

WHAT  
DO YOU  
TAKE  
ME  
FOR?

LAST  
TIME, YOU  
ONLY BEAT  
AKIRA BY  
2 POINTS.

C'MON,  
SAI!



That was  
a teaching  
game.



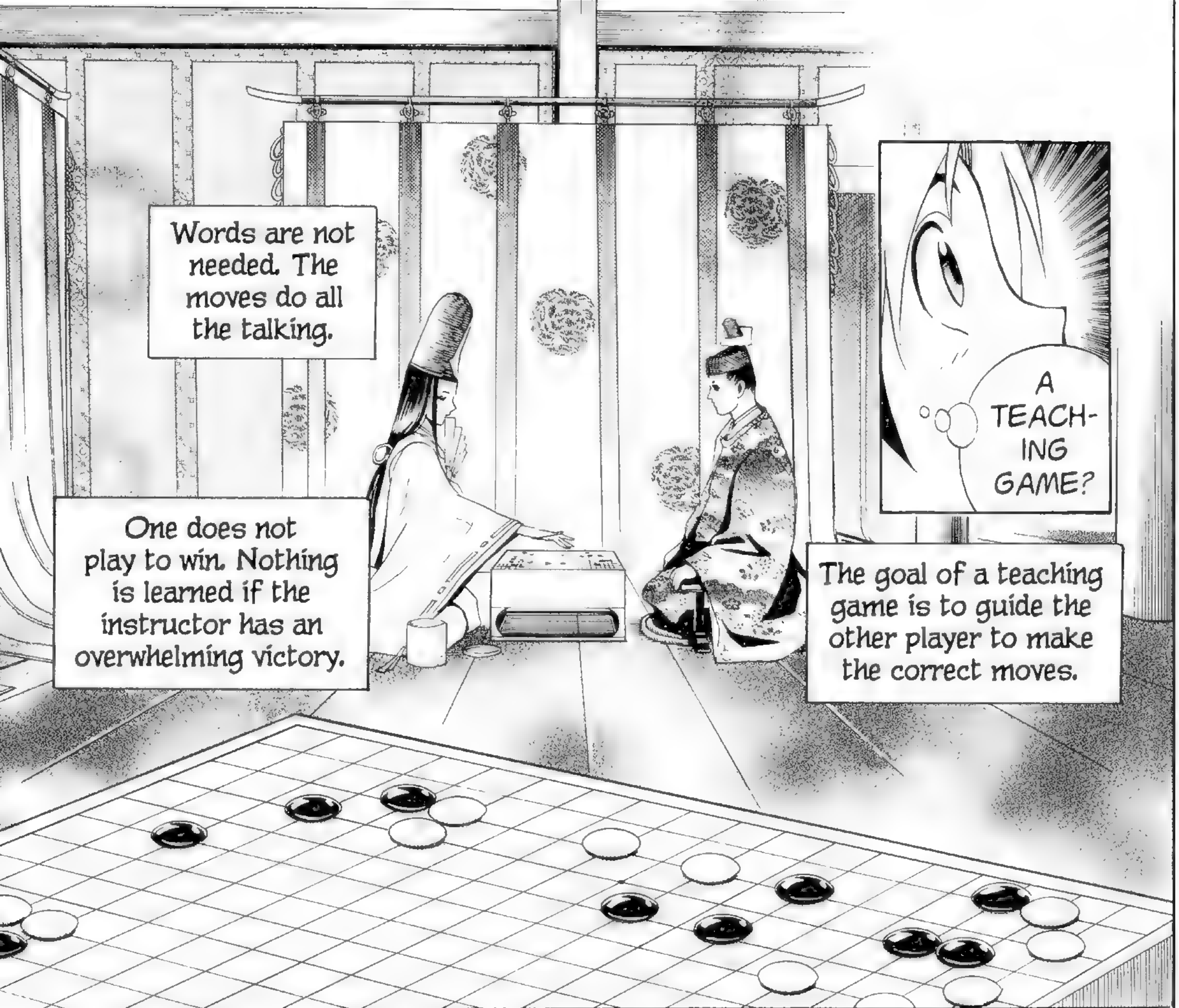
I  
wouldn't  
try so  
hard  
against  
a child.

WHAT?



Hikaru, I wasn't  
actually trying to  
win that game.



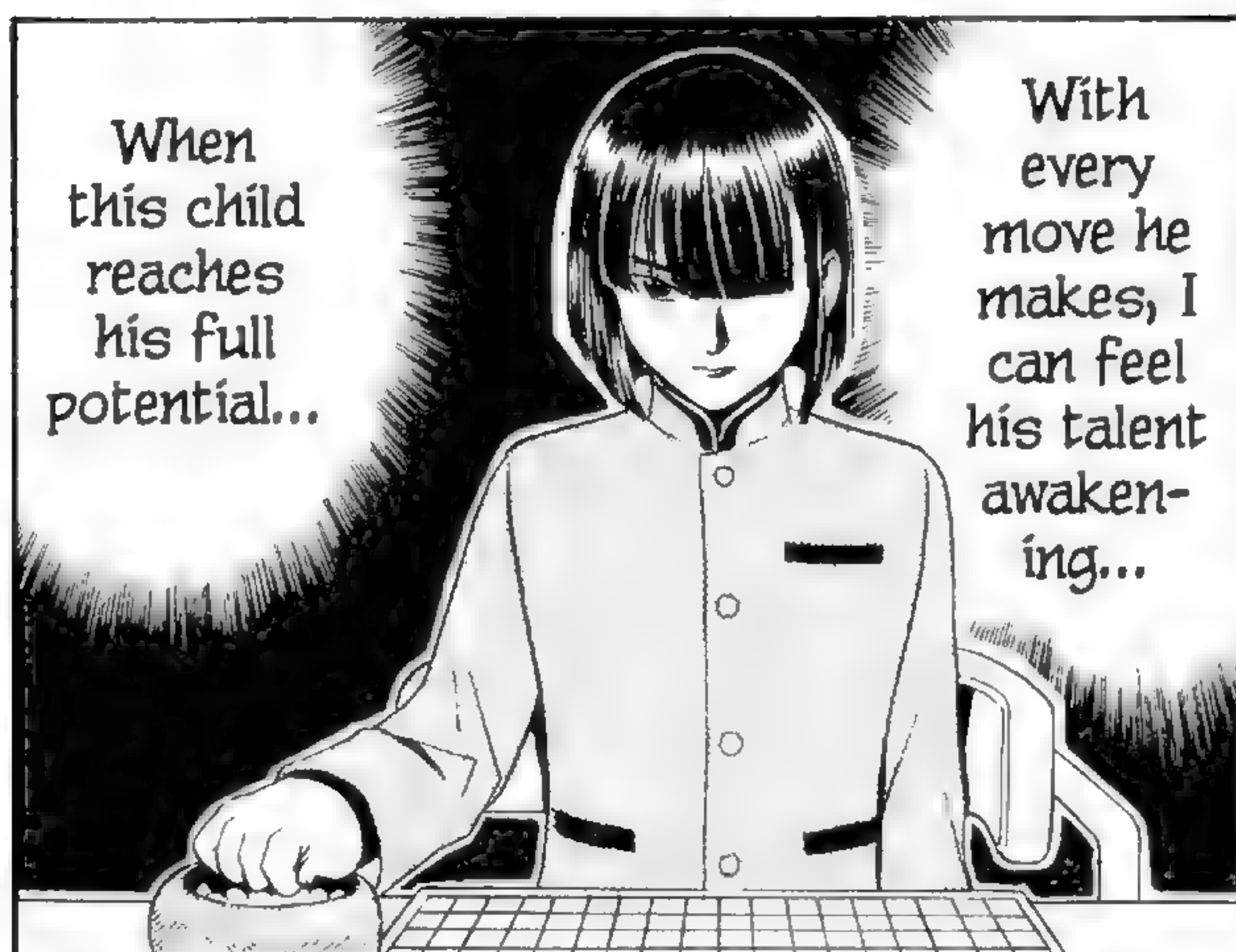






Only the  
most skilled  
of players  
would be able  
to beat him.

Although  
he still  
has room  
to grow,  
his  
moves  
are  
superb.

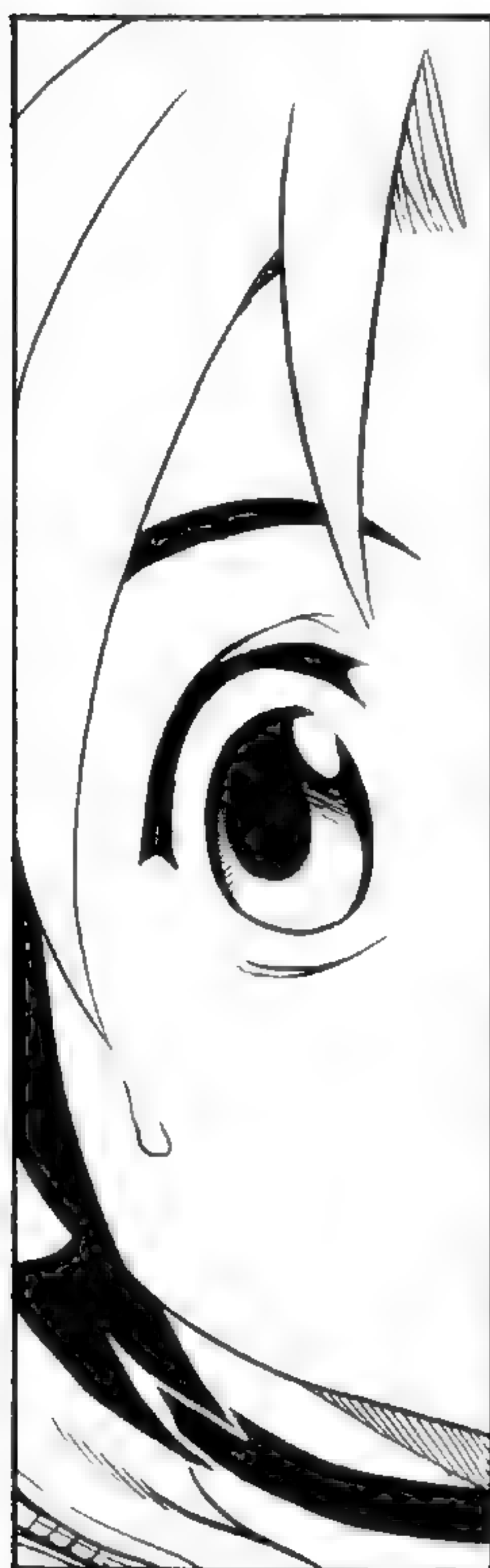


When  
this child  
reaches  
his full  
potential...

With  
every  
move he  
makes, I  
can feel  
his talent  
awaken-  
ing...



Akira  
is far  
from  
being  
"just  
a kid."



...Or  
perhaps  
a  
dragon...

He will  
trans-  
form  
into a  
lion...



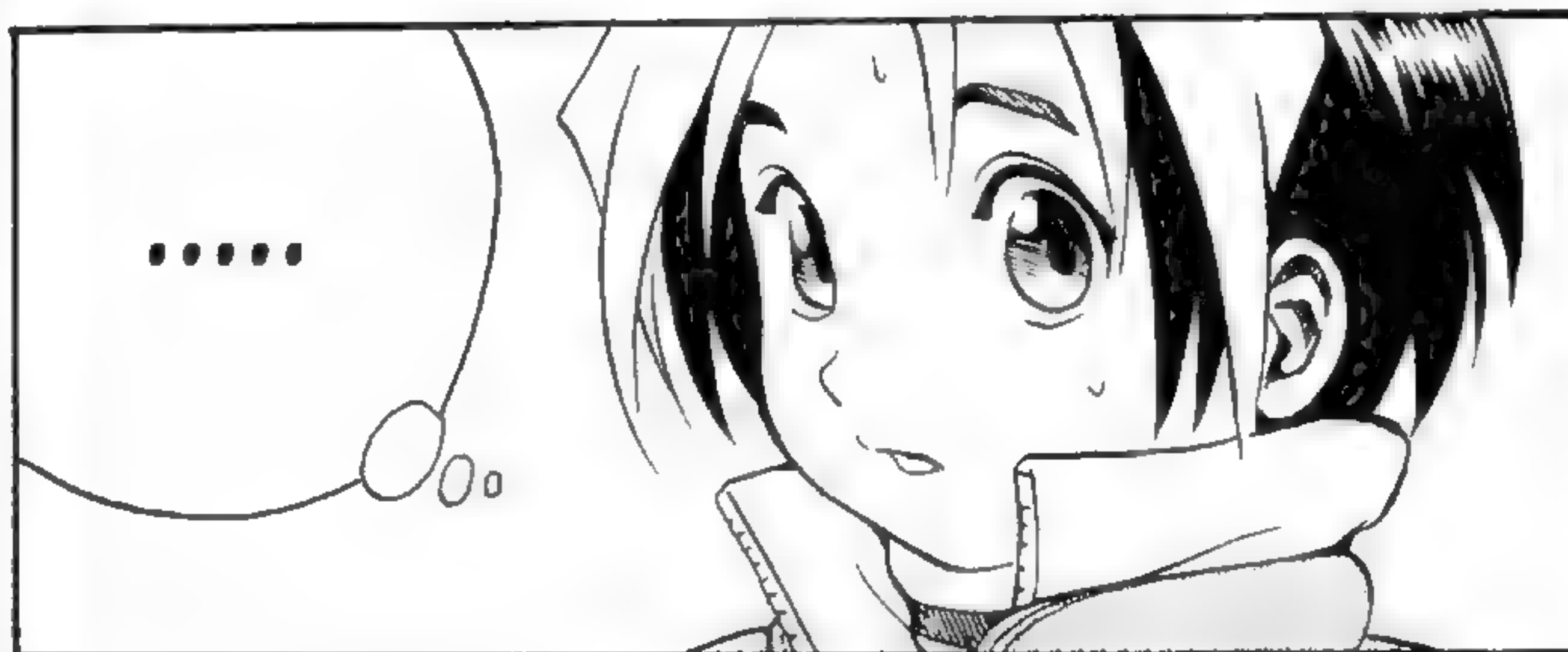


And no  
child can  
be a match  
for me.



And right  
now, with  
this raw  
talent...

...He's  
baring  
his  
fangs!



.....

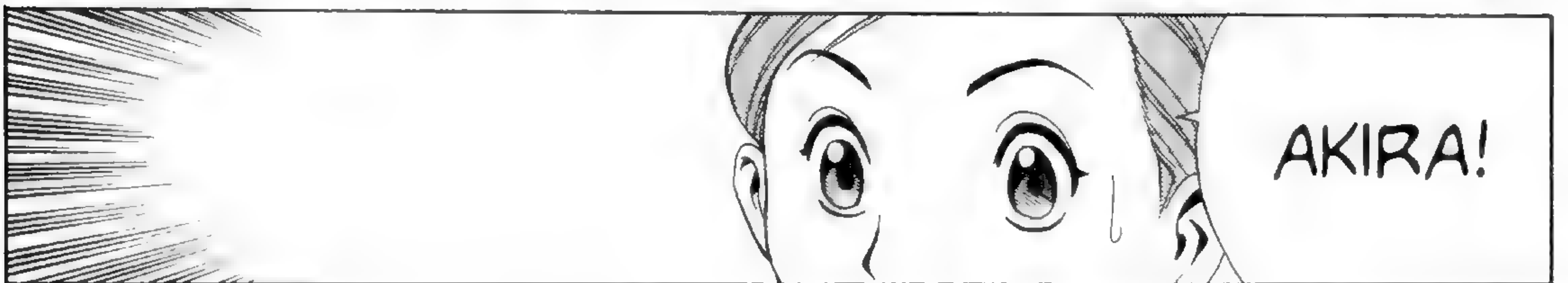


He *is*  
still just  
a child.



How-  
ever...













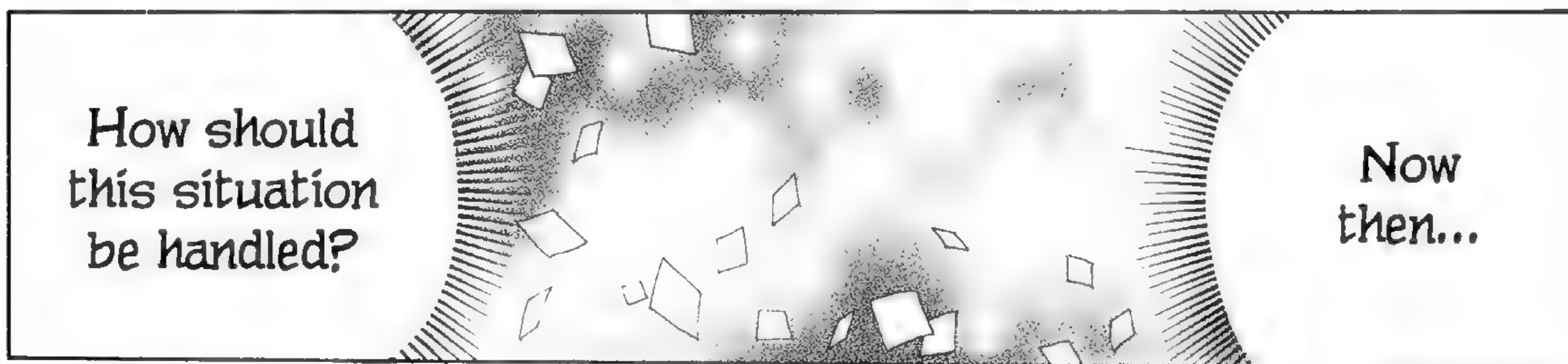
That's what I've been trying to tell you!

HE'S NOT JUST SOME KID...



THIS CROWD'S NOT AFFECTING HIM ONE BIT...

HE'S NOT EVEN CONSCIOUS OF THE SURROUNDINGS.



How should this situation be handled?

Now then...



This is a delicate time in his development...

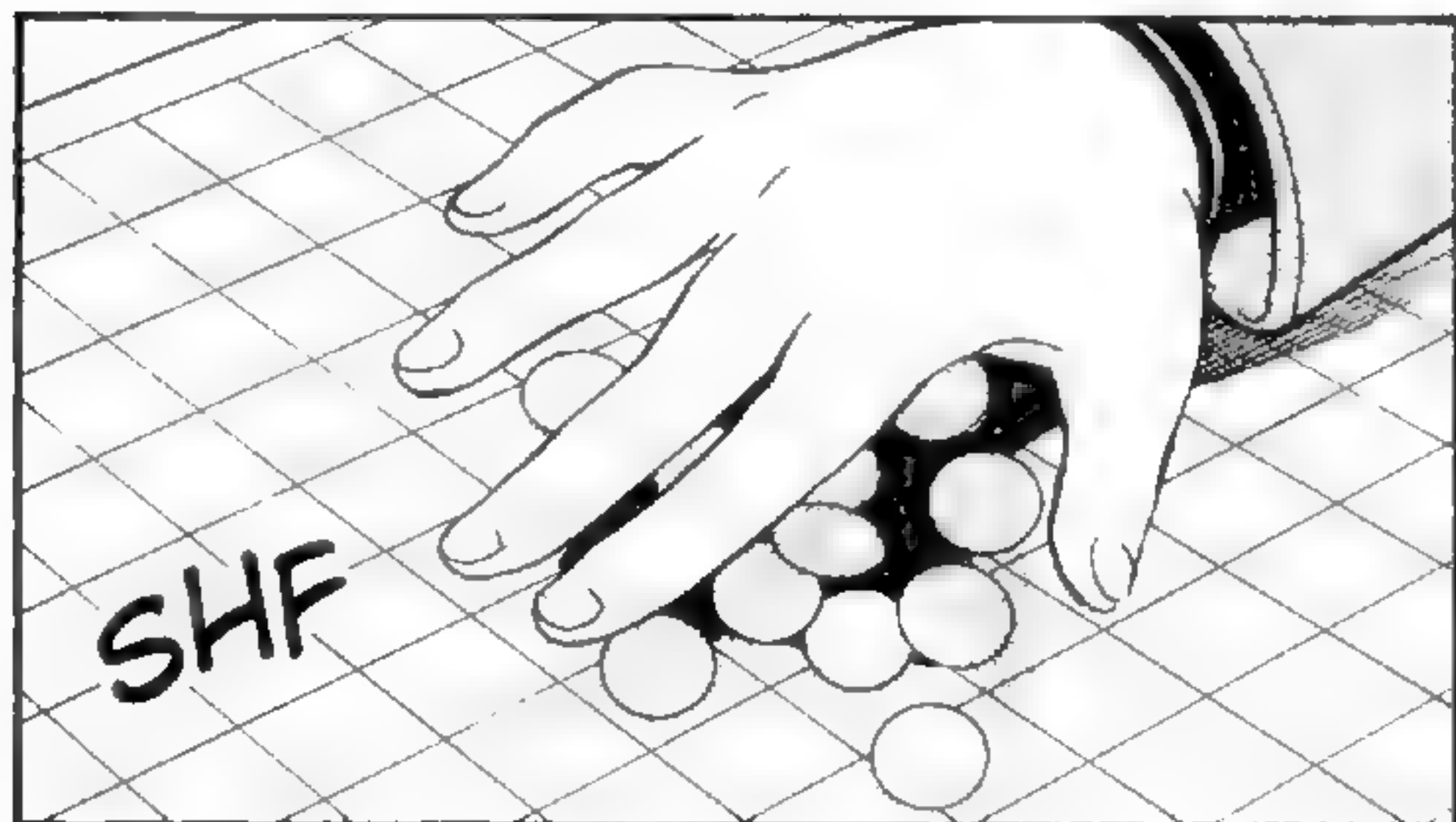
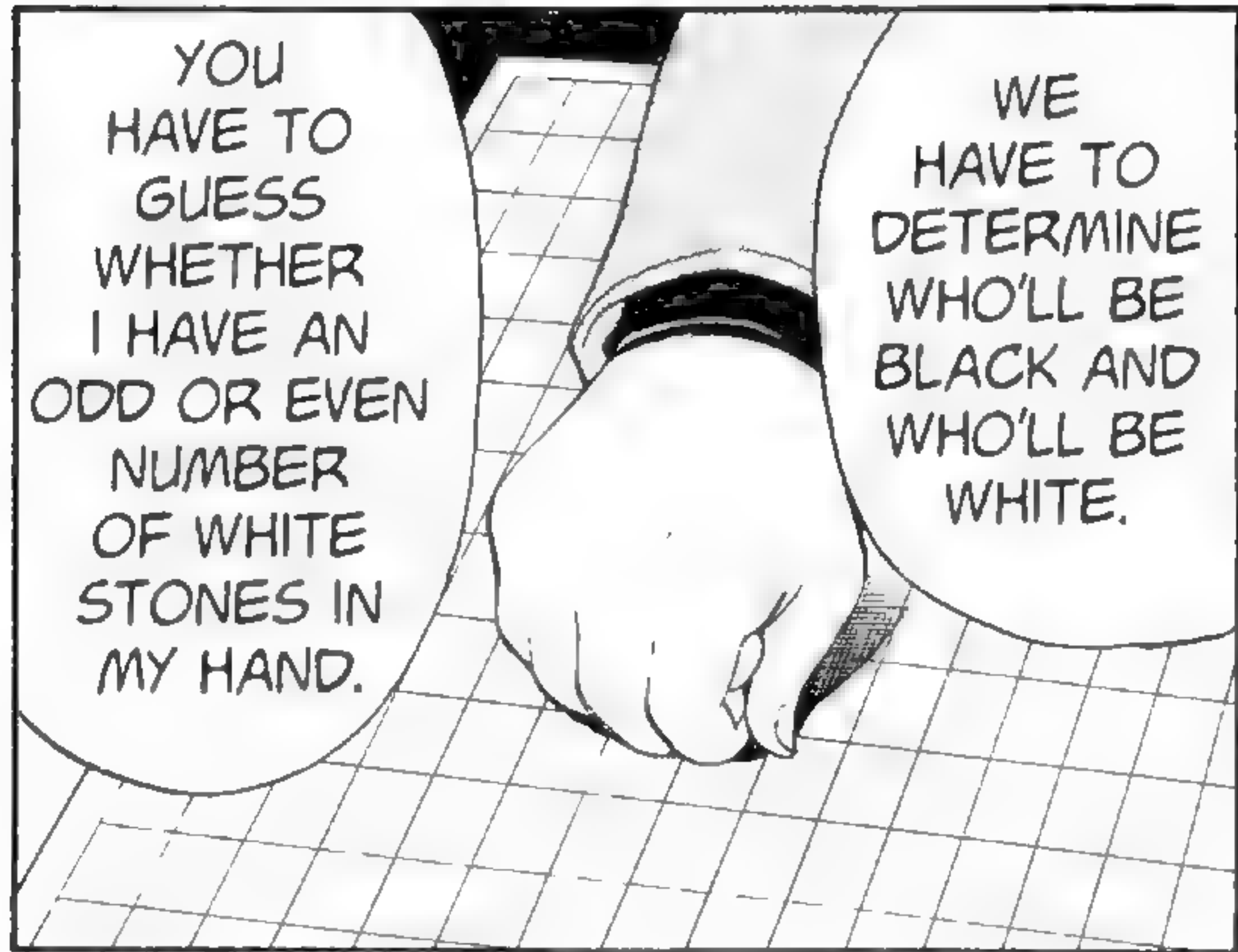
Should I be gentle with him...?



But right now he is baring his teeth.

This child is bright-eyed and overflowing with potential...

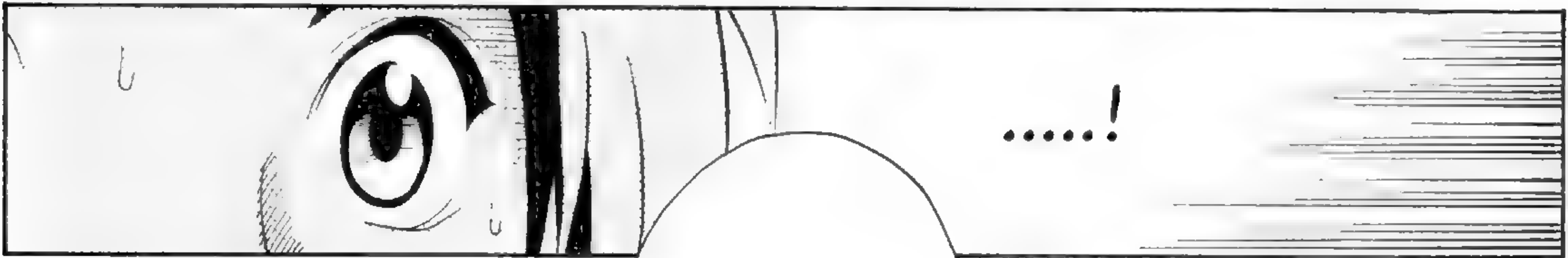
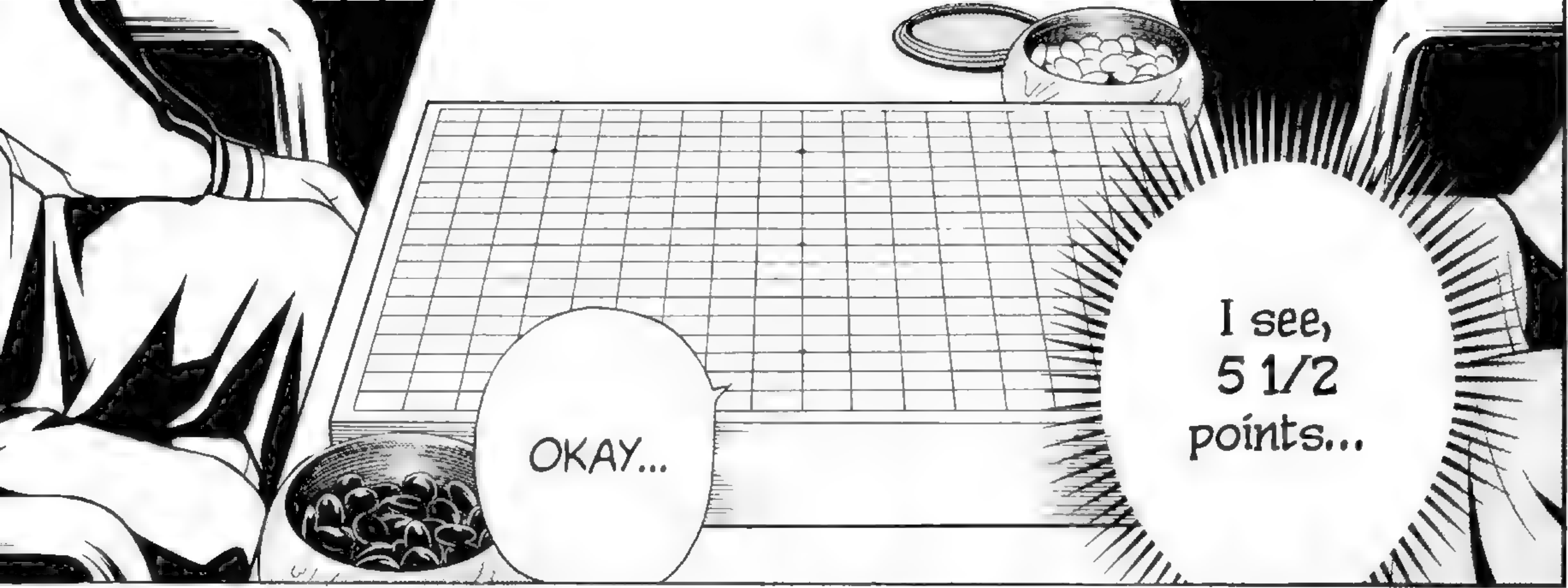








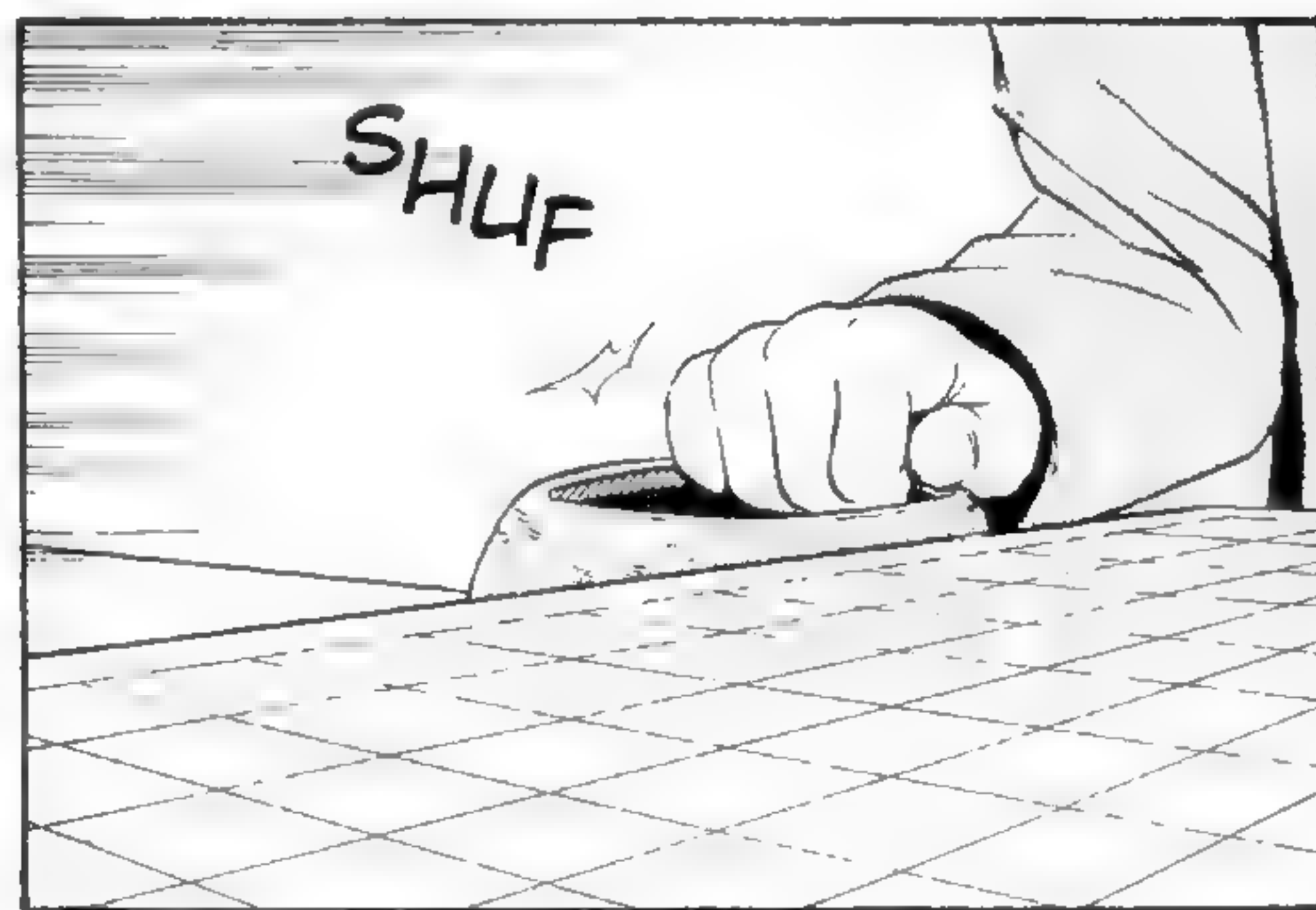








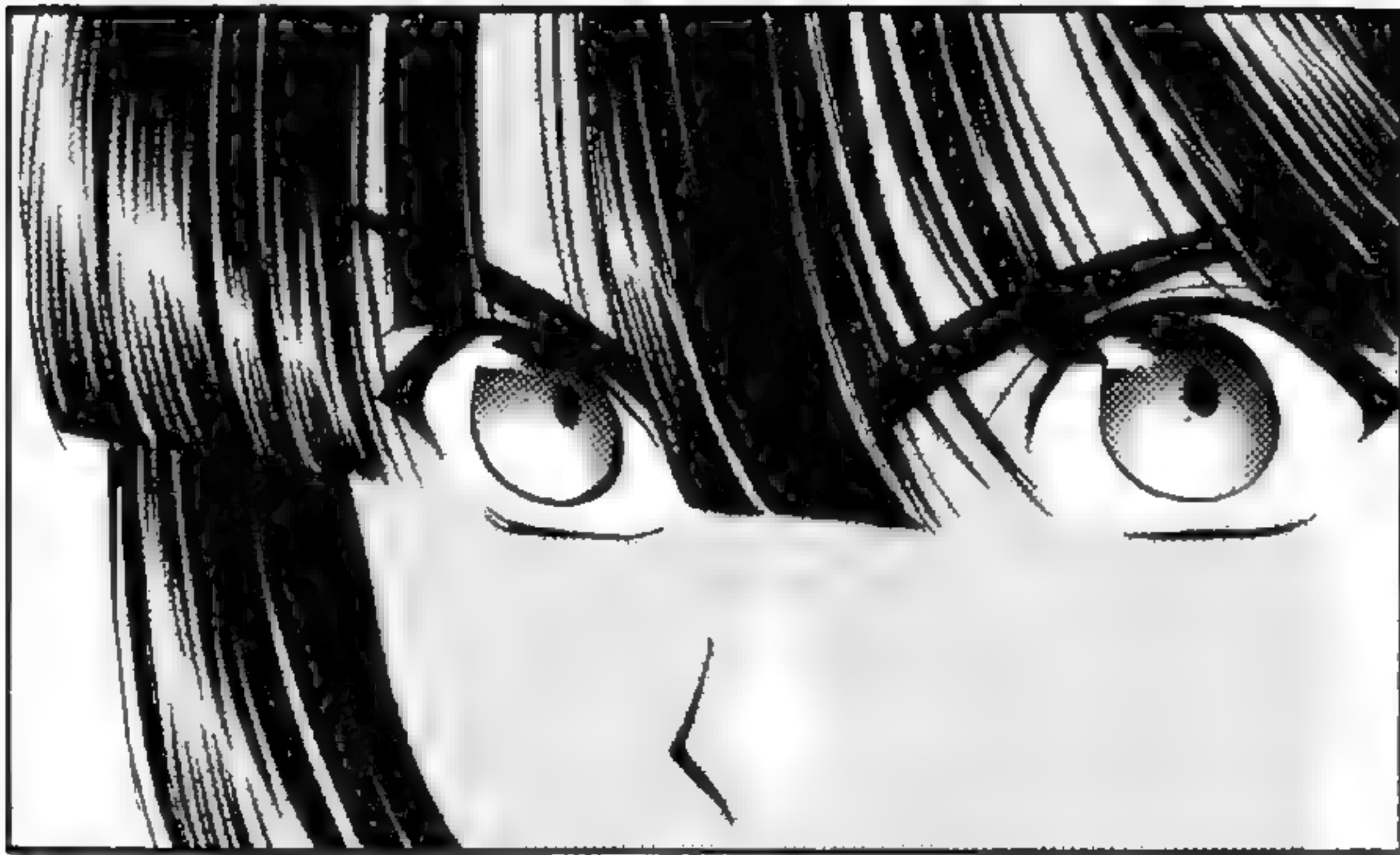






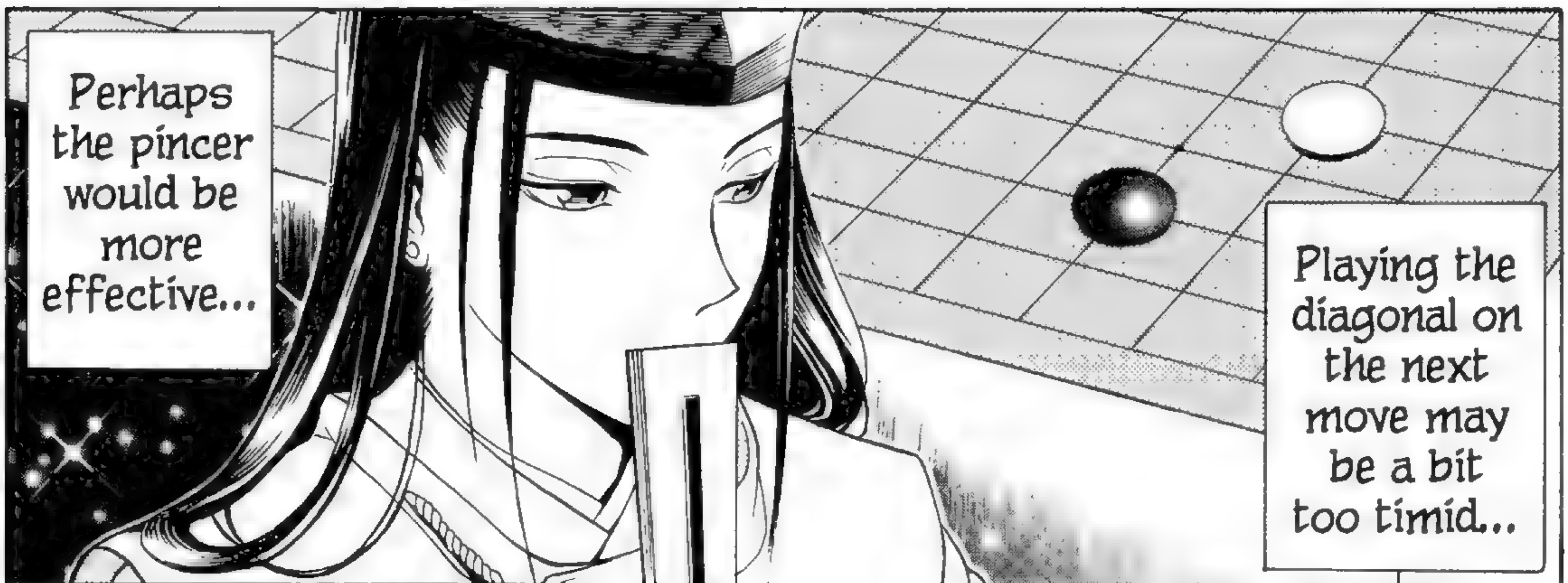






HE'S  
REALLY  
MAD...

AKIRA'S  
GOT A  
SCARY  
LOOK IN  
HIS EYES...

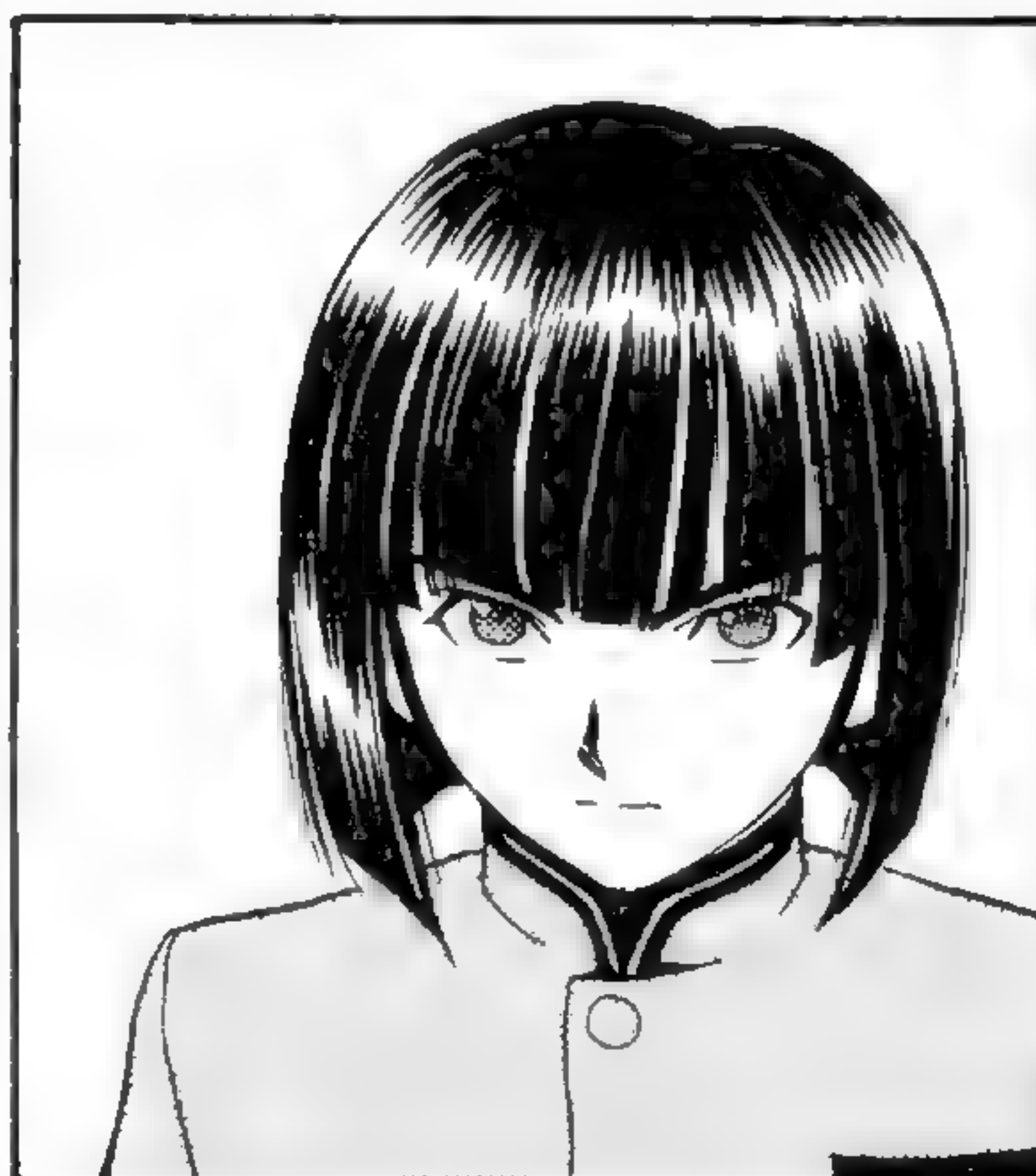


Perhaps  
the pincer  
would be  
more  
effective...

Playing the  
diagonal on  
the next  
move may  
be a bit  
too timid...



Or is he  
*waiting*  
for me  
to play  
the  
diagonal?



hmm...

Well then, I'll  
just have to  
comply...







SHUF

All right,  
let's go!





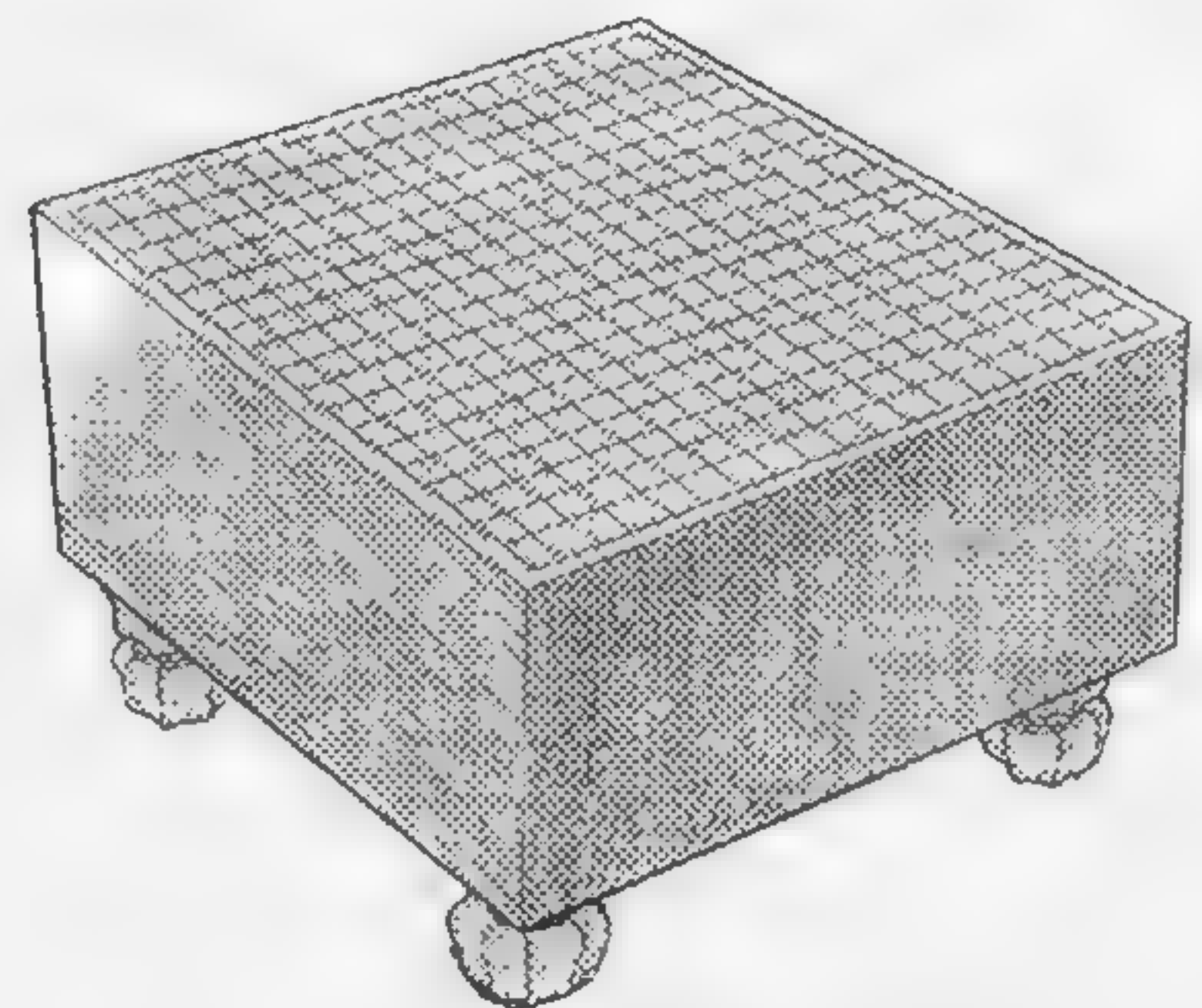


HIKARU  
NO GO  
EXTRAS

## Hikaru no Go Q&A

**Q 1** Is it true that there are smaller Go boards?

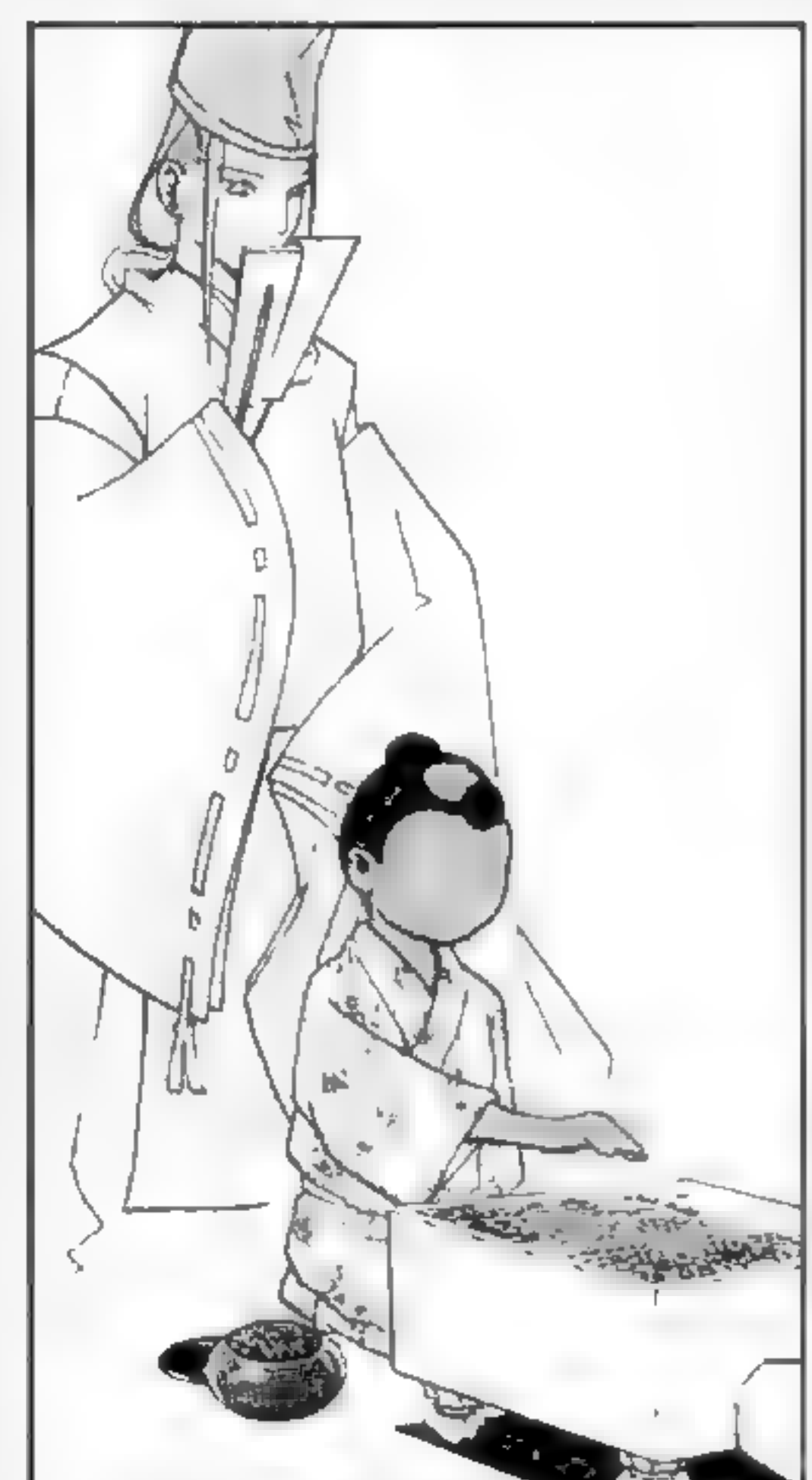
**A** A standard Go board, such as the one shown to the right, has 19 by 19 points. This may be too large an area and may cause confusion for beginners. So instead, a 9 by 9 board can be used.



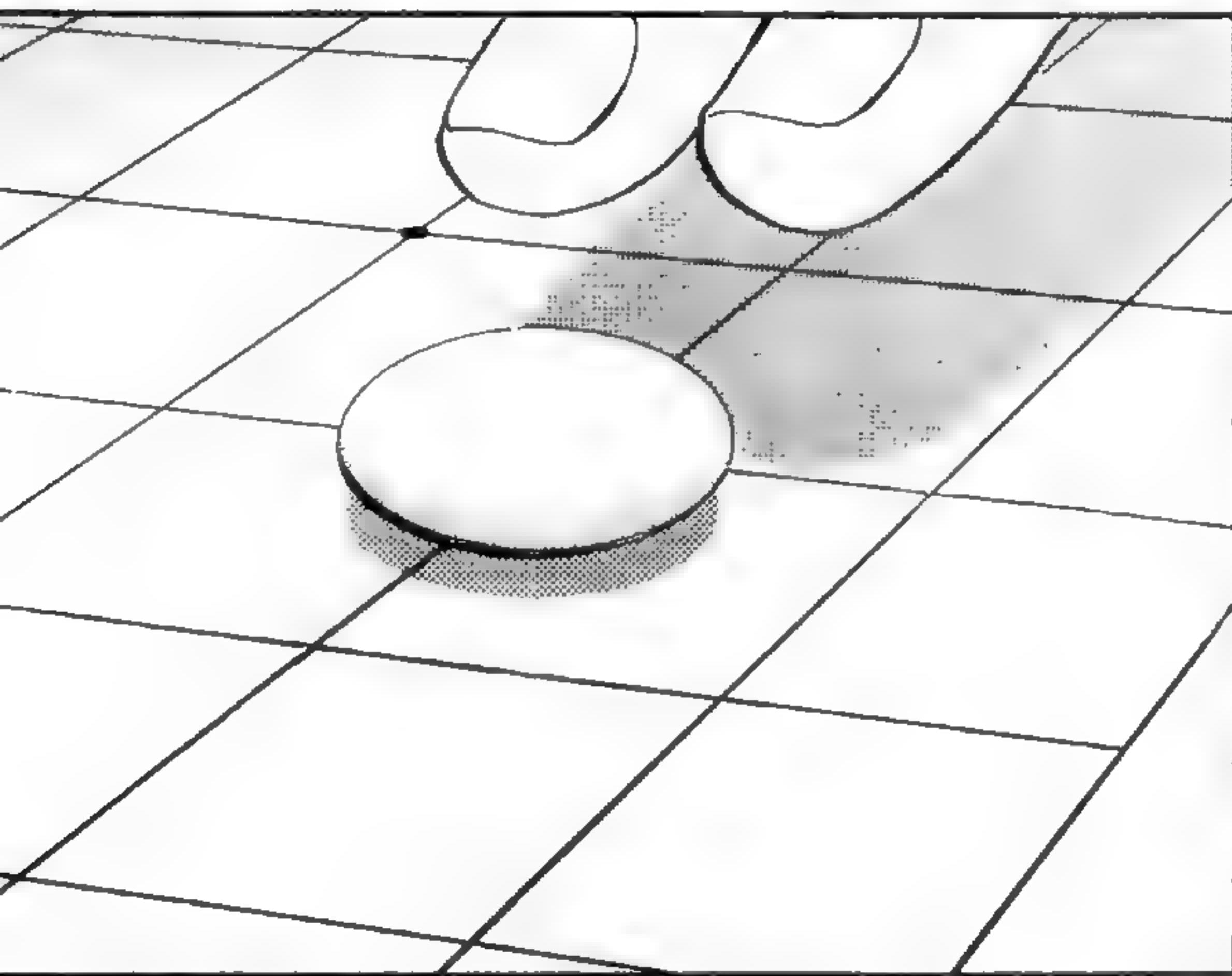
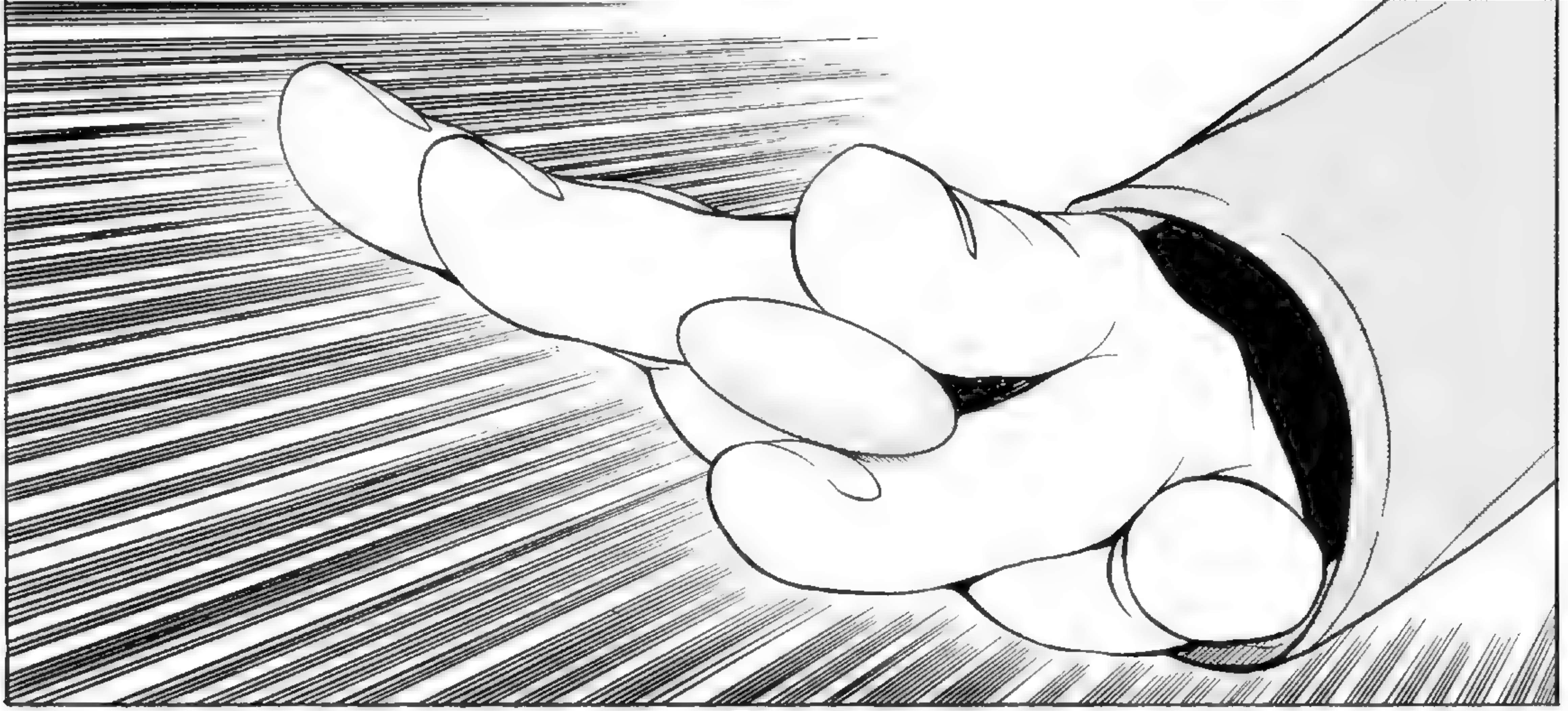
A 19 by 19 Go board with legs typically used by the pros.

**Q 2** What kind of person was Hon'inbo-Shusaku?

**A** Shusaku was a genius Go player born in 1829 in Innoshima. He had such great skill that some called him the greatest player of all time. He learned the game at age 5 and by the time he was 10, he was playing Go in Edo, the capital city. It is said that his master, Jowa, called Shusaku a great player the likes of which had not been seen in 150 years. Shusaku eventually developed into such an outstanding player, he came to be known as a "Go Saint."







Game 6: "A Decisive Blow"

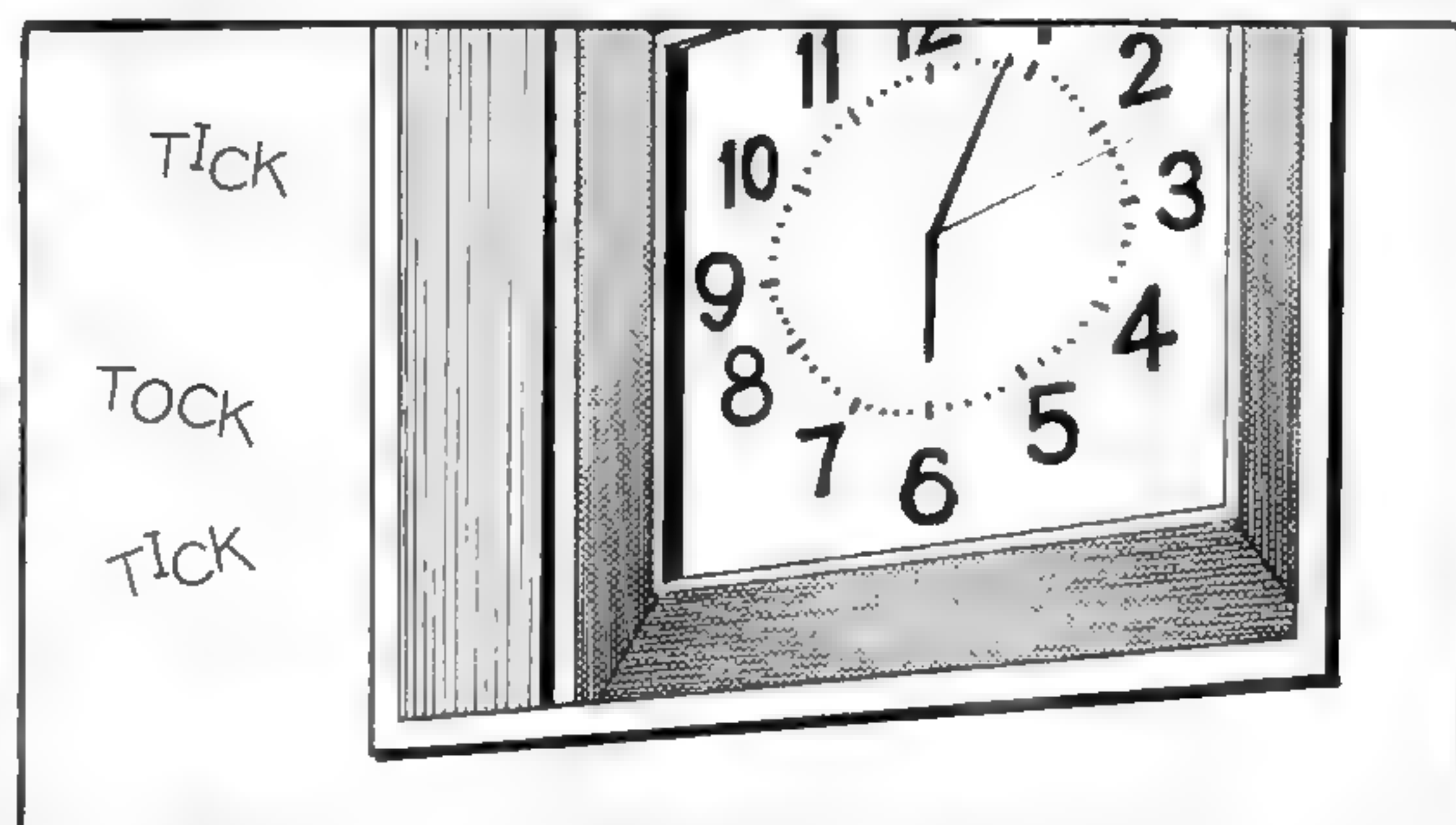
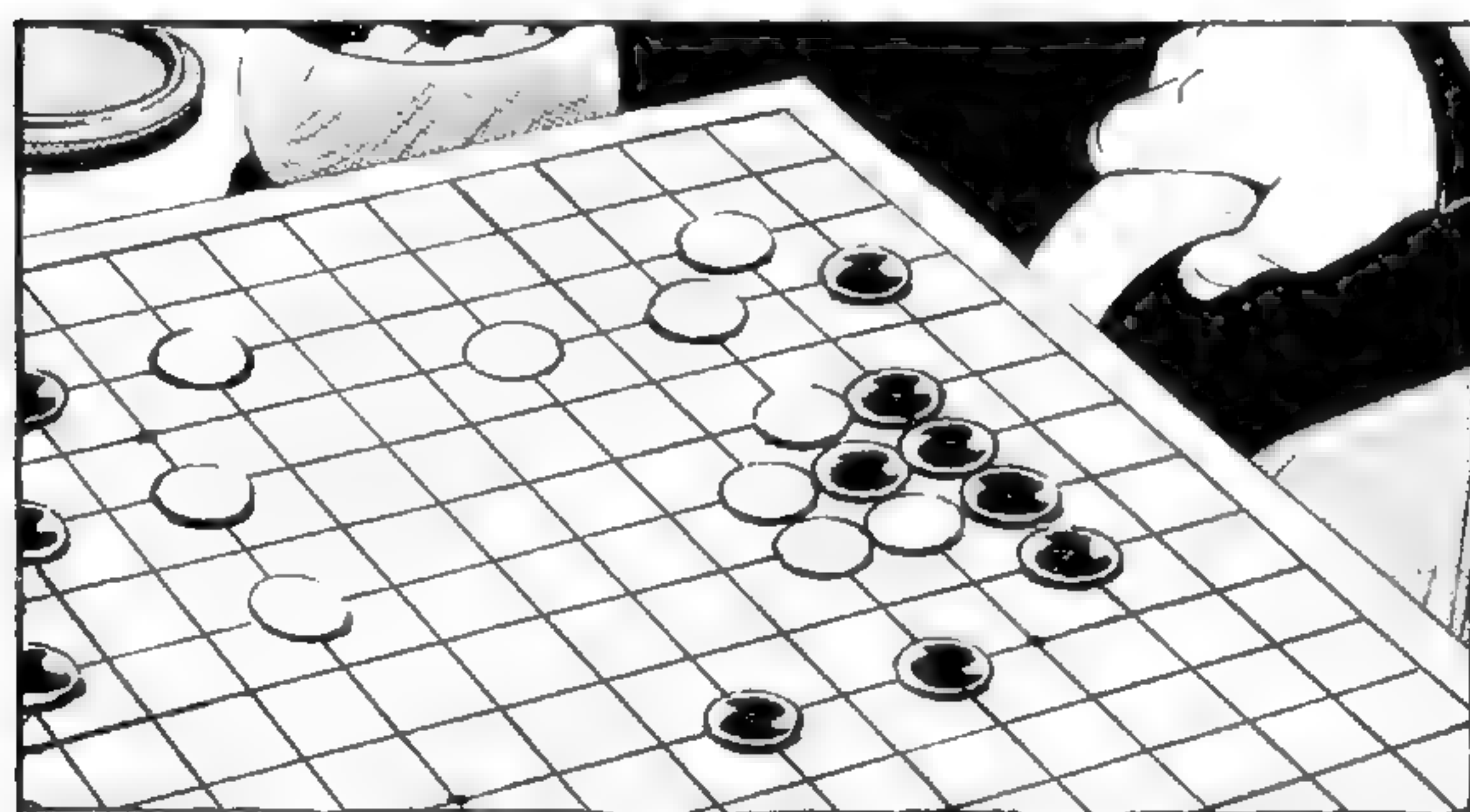


Game 6  
"A  
Decisive  
Blow"





READ  
THIS  
WAY



I  
RESIGN...

....





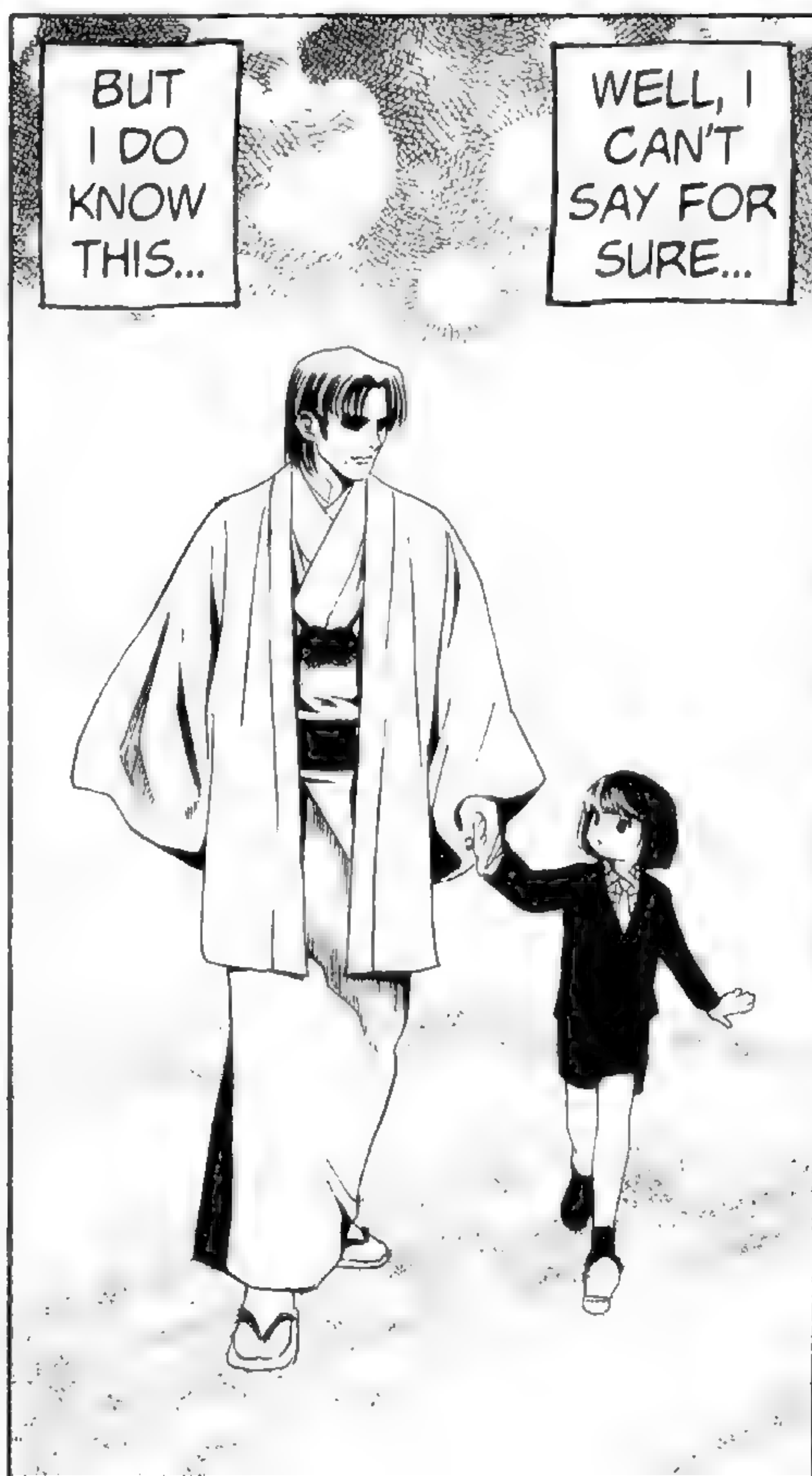
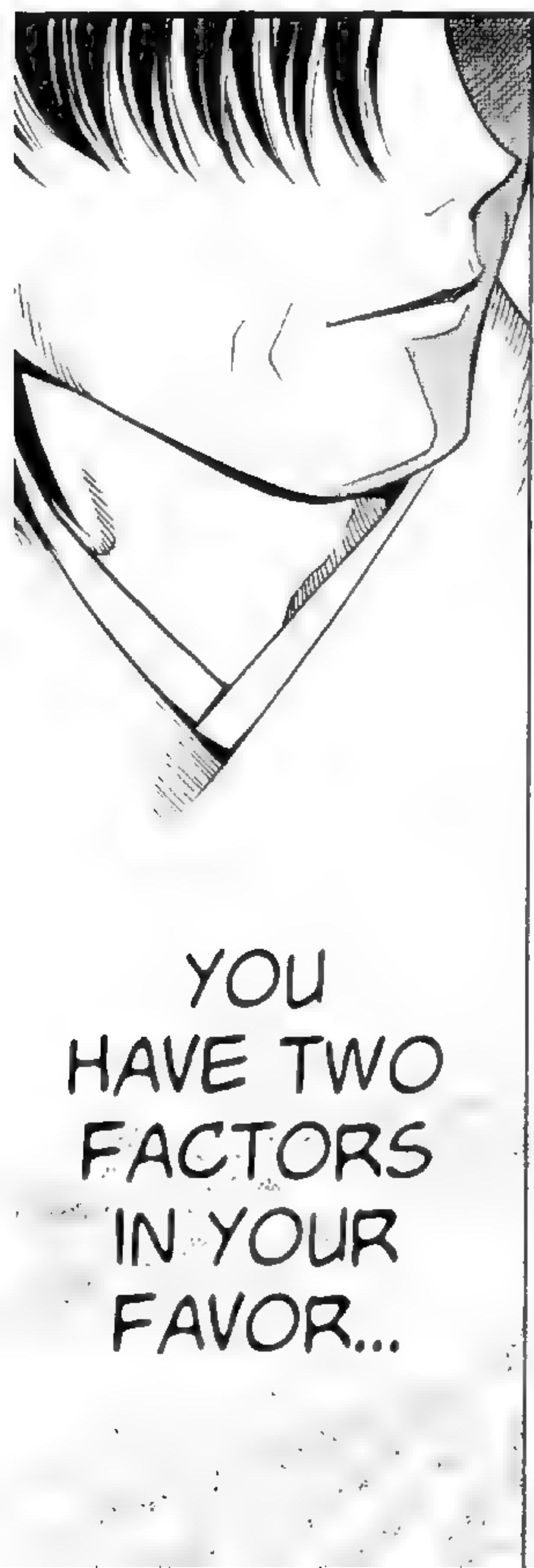














AND  
YOUR  
LOVE  
FOR THE  
GAME IS  
GREAT...



YOU'RE  
A HARD  
WORKER...

...FATHER...



AND I DON'T  
KNOW IF I'LL  
BE ABLE TO  
OVERCOME IT.



BUT  
NOW...

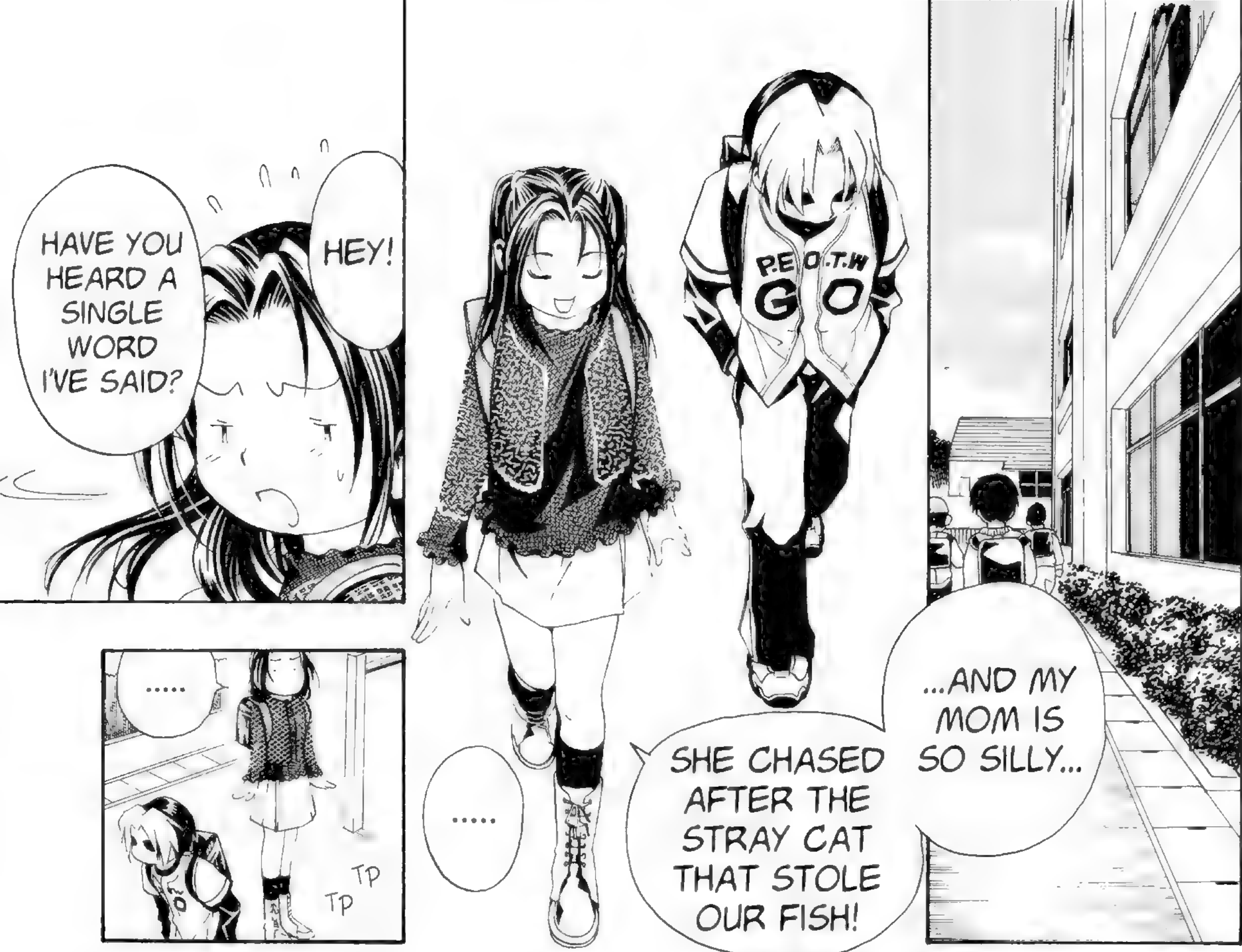
I SEE A  
HUGE  
WALL  
BEFORE  
ME...



I'VE ALWAYS  
BEEN PROUD  
OF WHAT  
FATHER TOLD  
ME THAT DAY...









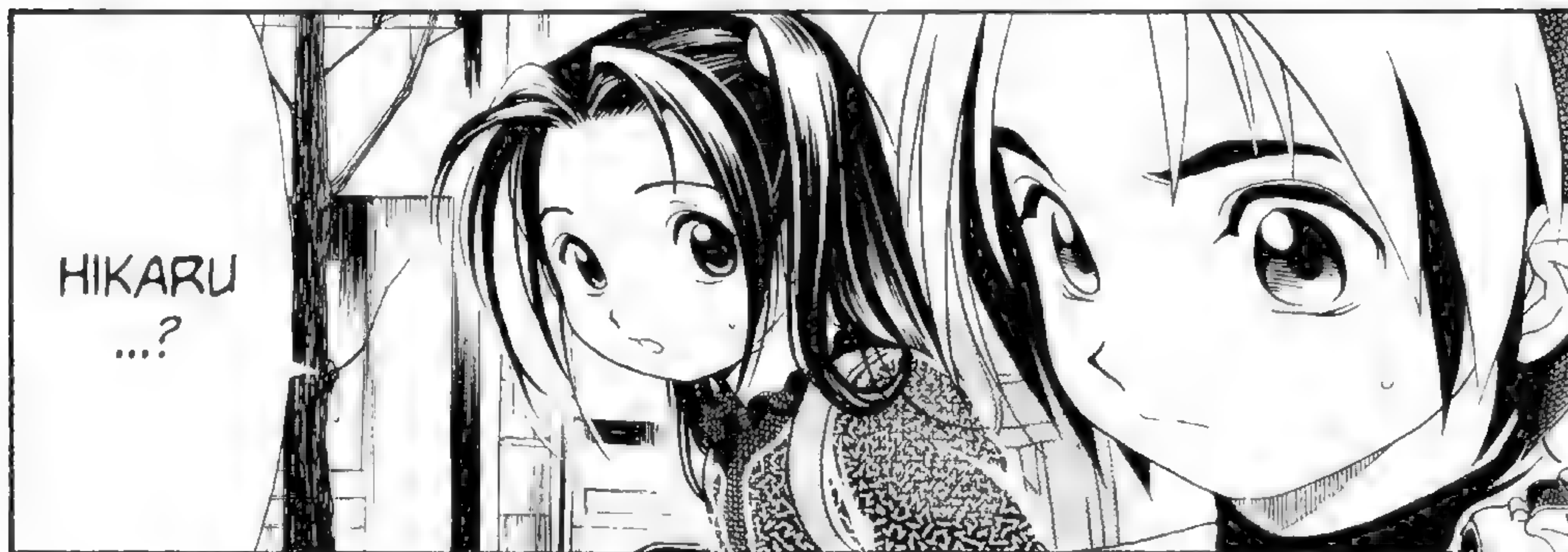


That  
child did  
not allow  
me the  
luxury...

Even had  
I wanted  
to be  
gentle...

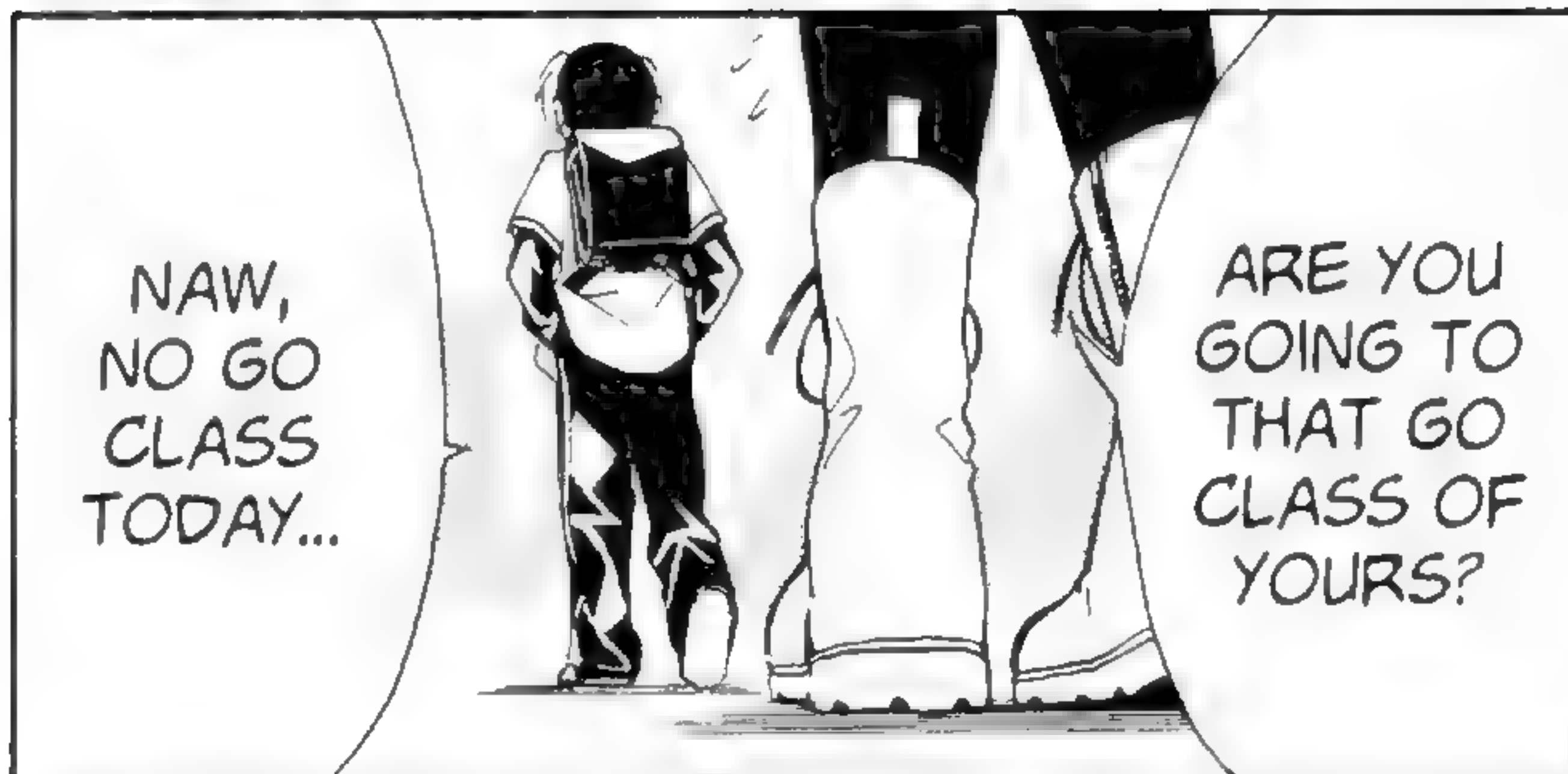
I had no  
choice...

I had no  
choice but  
to sever  
his head  
with one  
clean cut...



HIKARU  
...?







IS GO MORE  
THAN JUST  
A GAME...?

ARE YOU TRYING  
TO PLAY "THE  
DIVINE MOVE"  
JUST LIKE SAI...?

AKIRA, HOW  
CAN YOU  
BE SO  
INTENSE...?







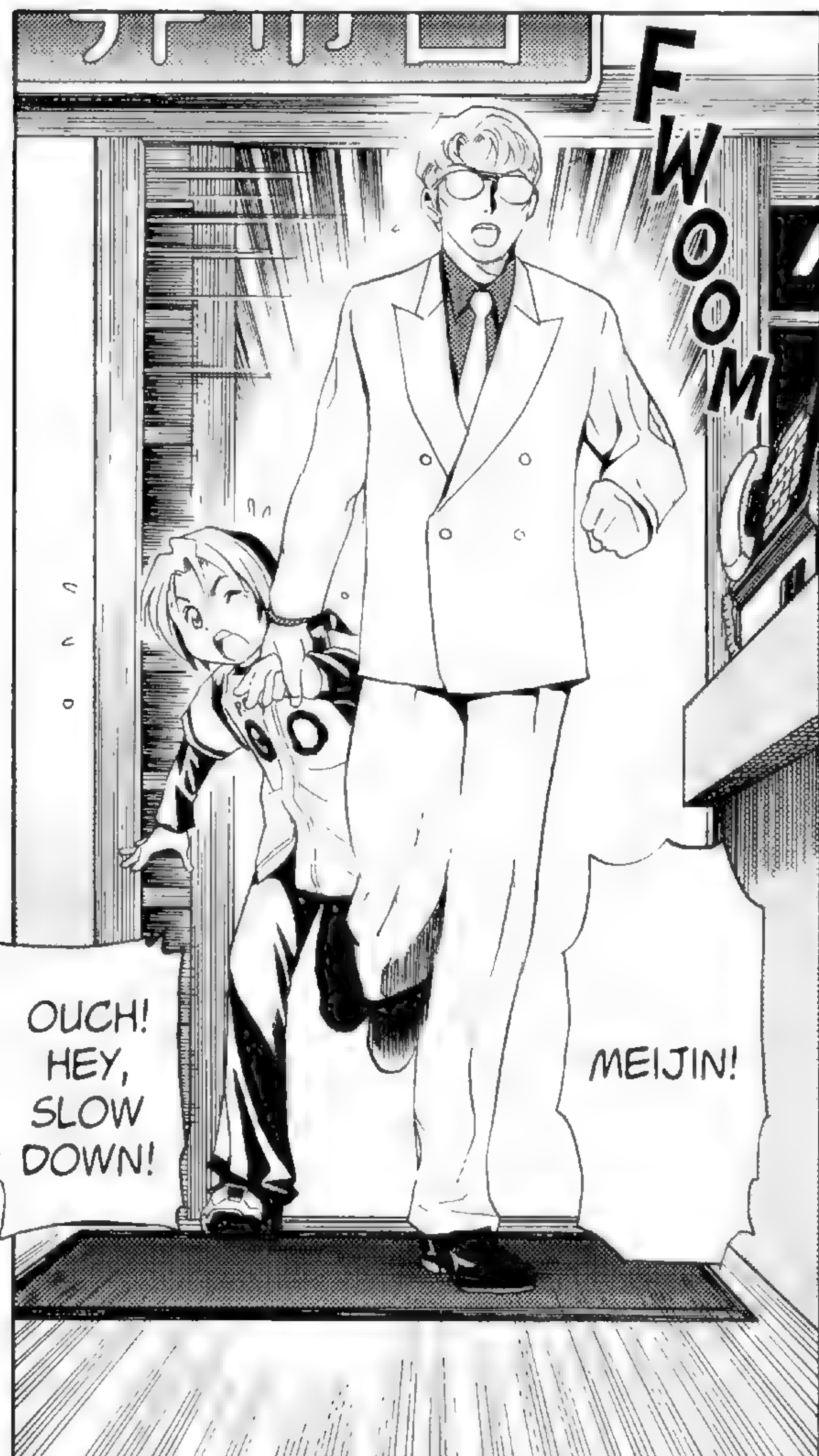
WHAT'S THE  
BIG IDEA?!

GRAB

IT IS  
YOU!



WHAT'RE  
YOU--?!



FWOOM

OUCH!  
HEY,  
SLOW  
DOWN!

MEIJIN!



THERE'S  
SOMEONE  
WHO'S  
BEEN  
WANTING  
TO MEET  
YOU...

COME  
WITH ME...

GO SALON



HUH?!  
WHO?

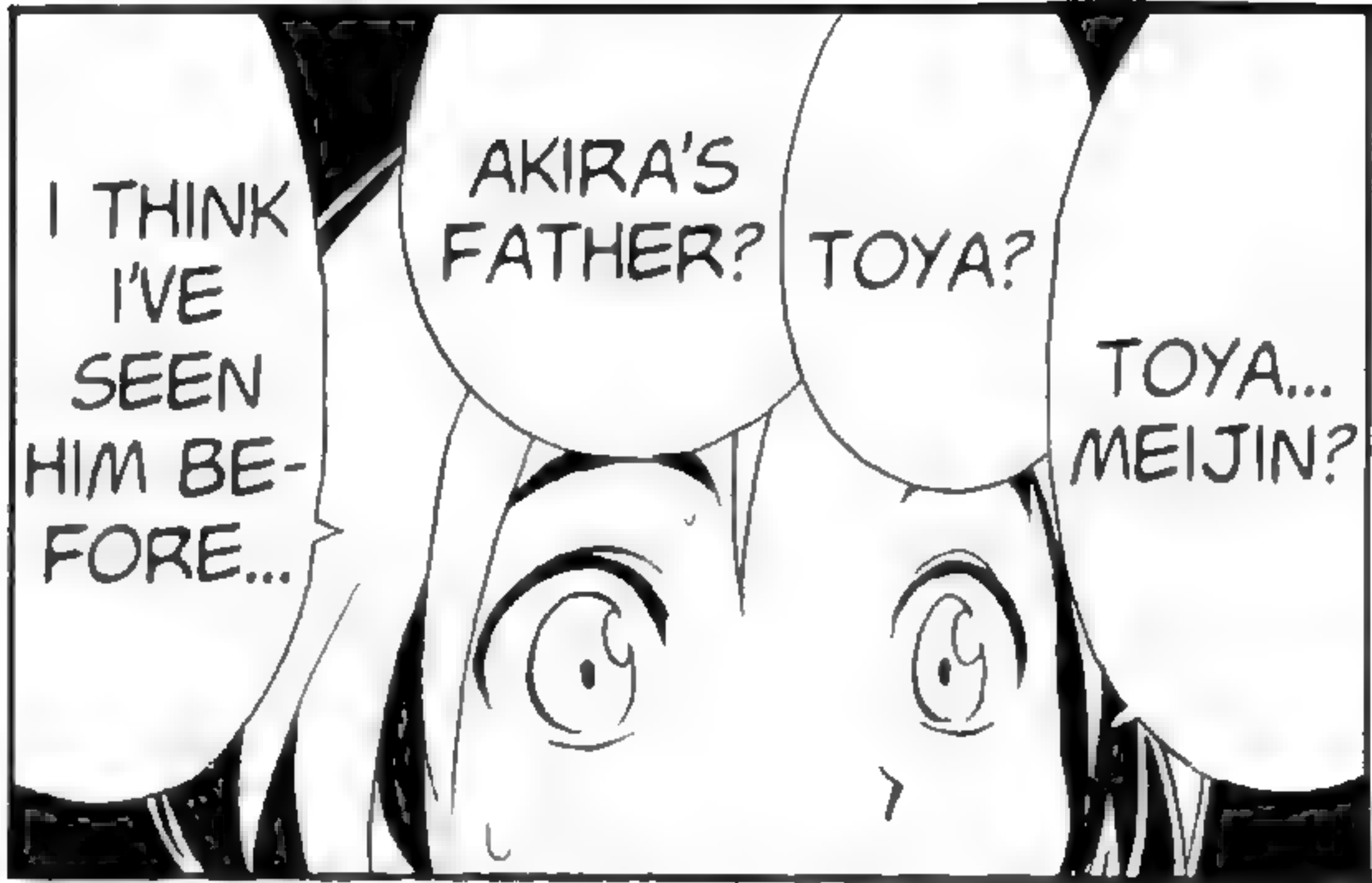
IS IT  
AKIRA  
TOYA?

TP TP TP

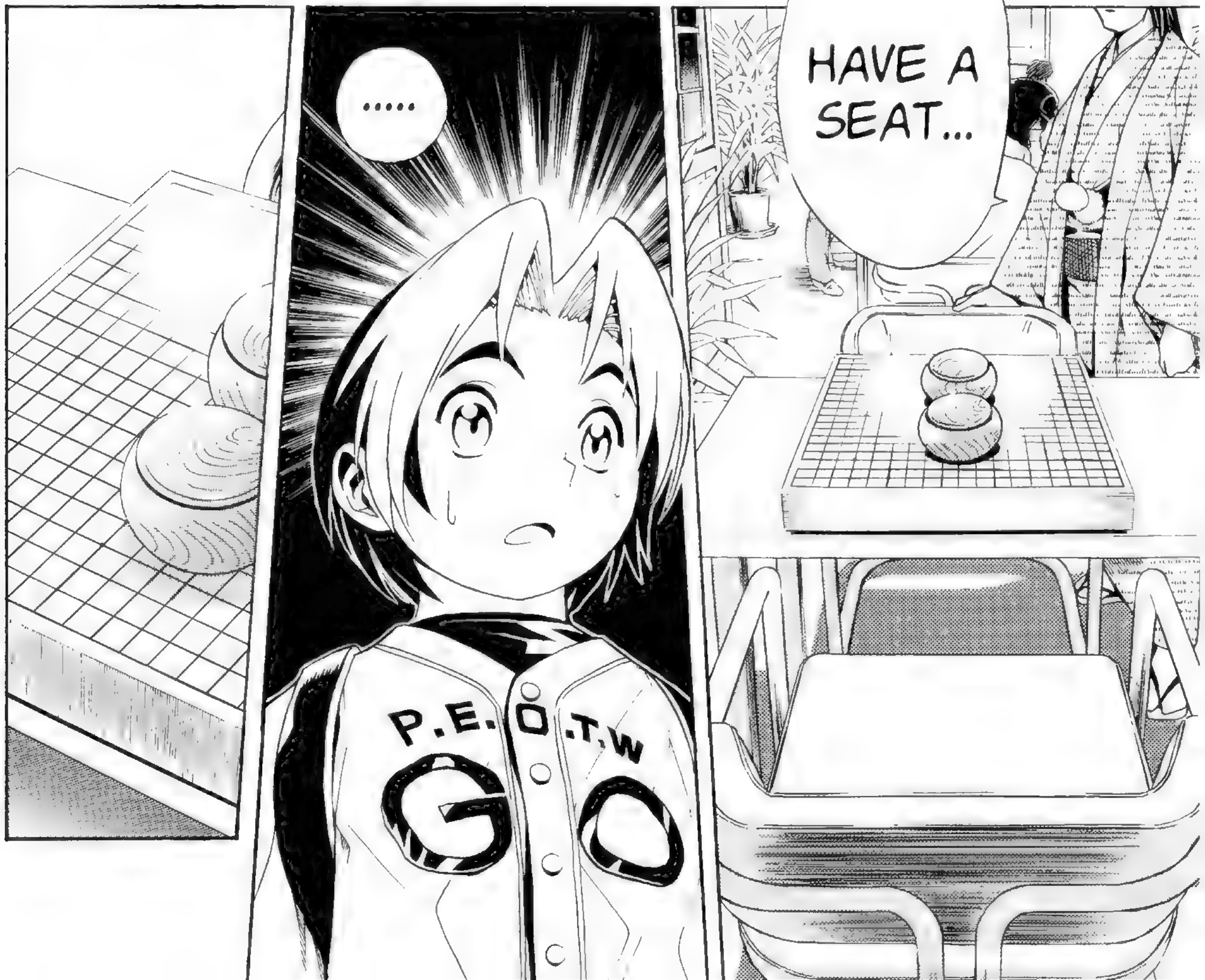










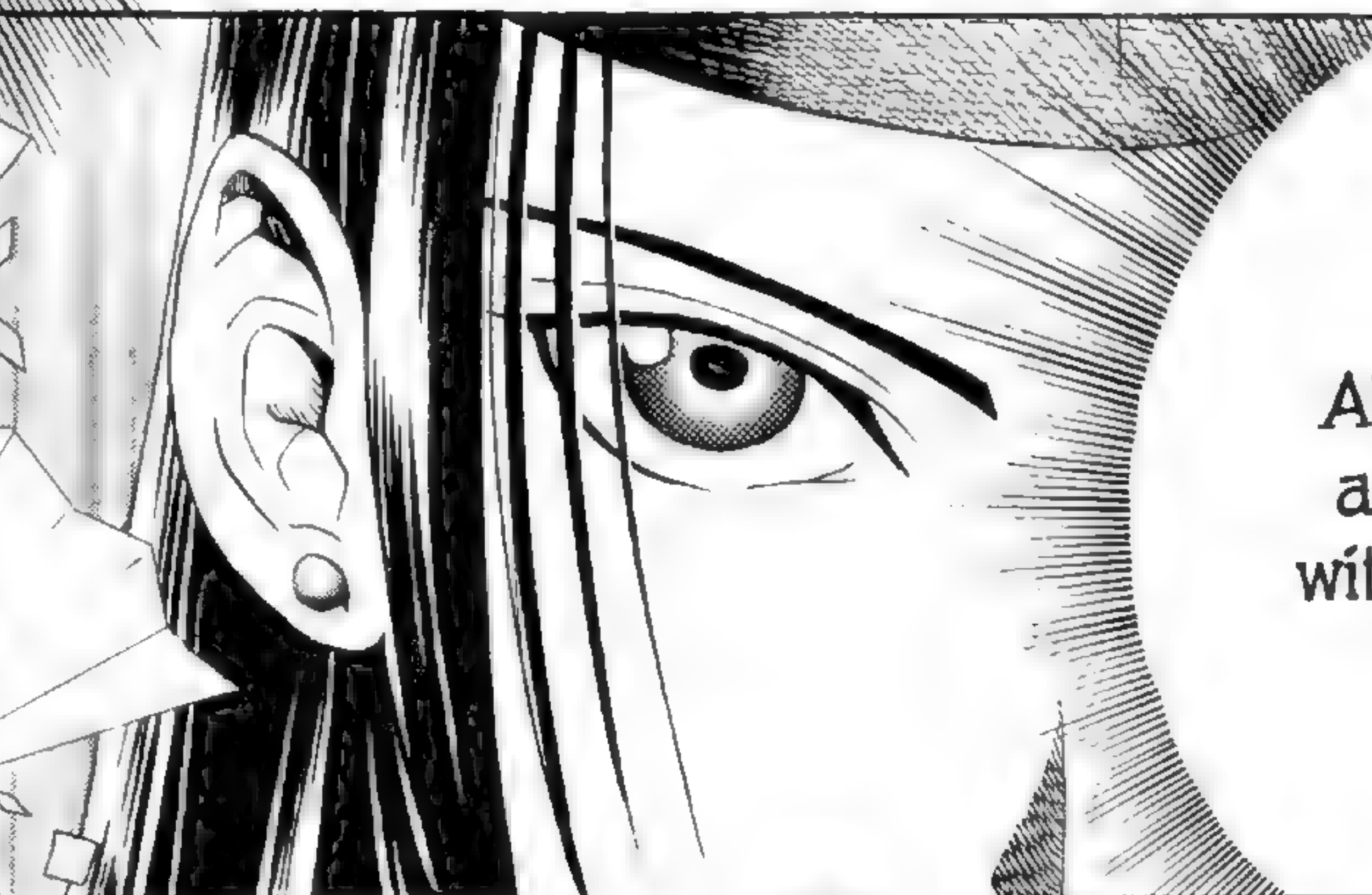
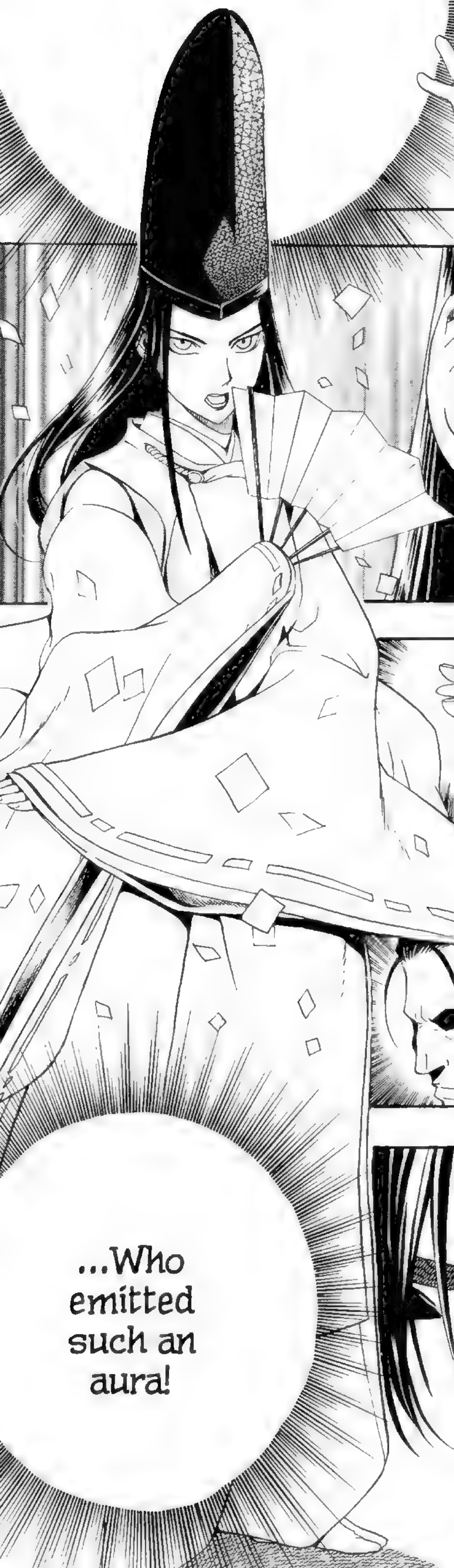




Hikaru!!



THAT'S  
OKAY...  
I'M, UH...



Allow me  
a match  
with him...

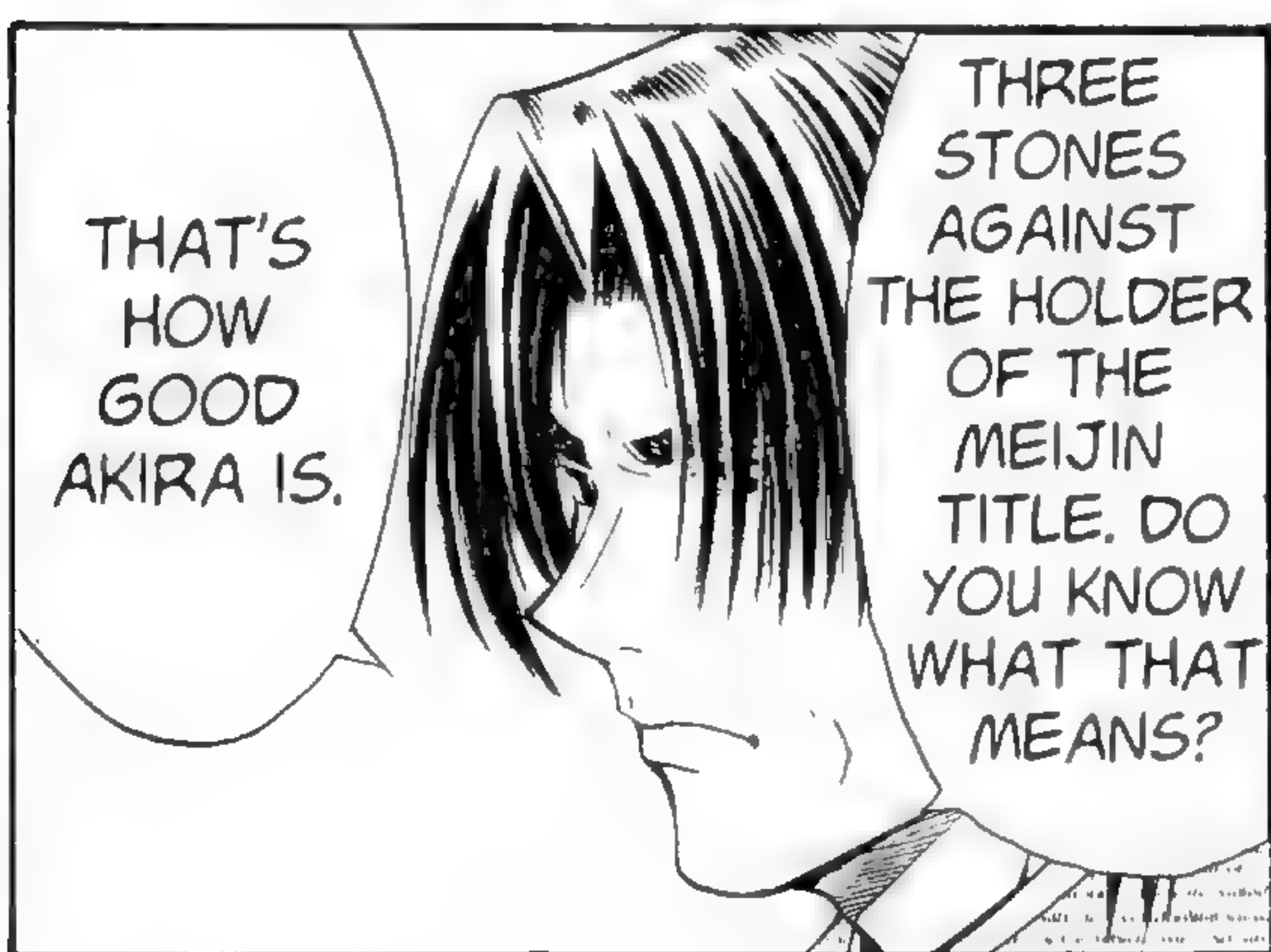
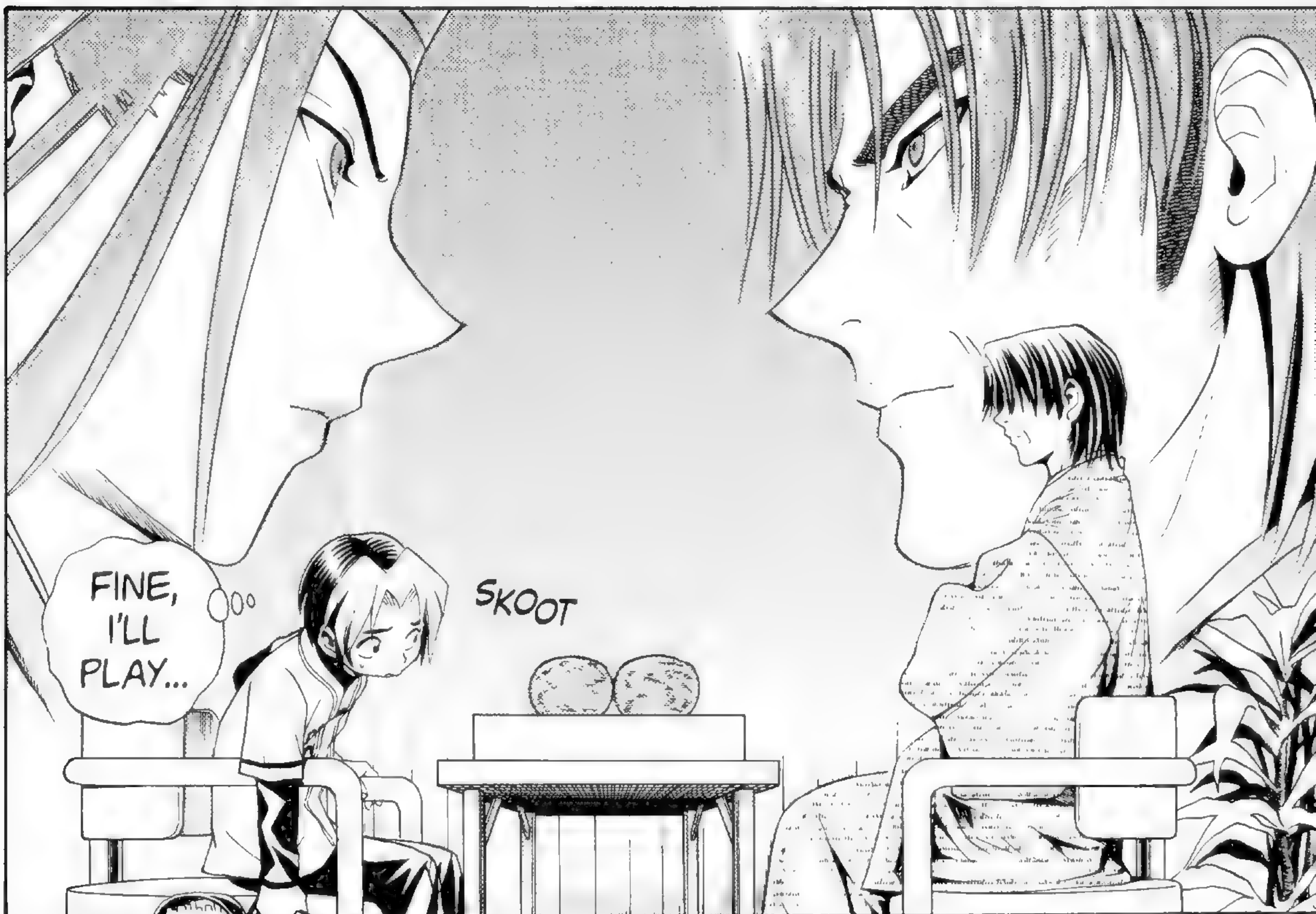
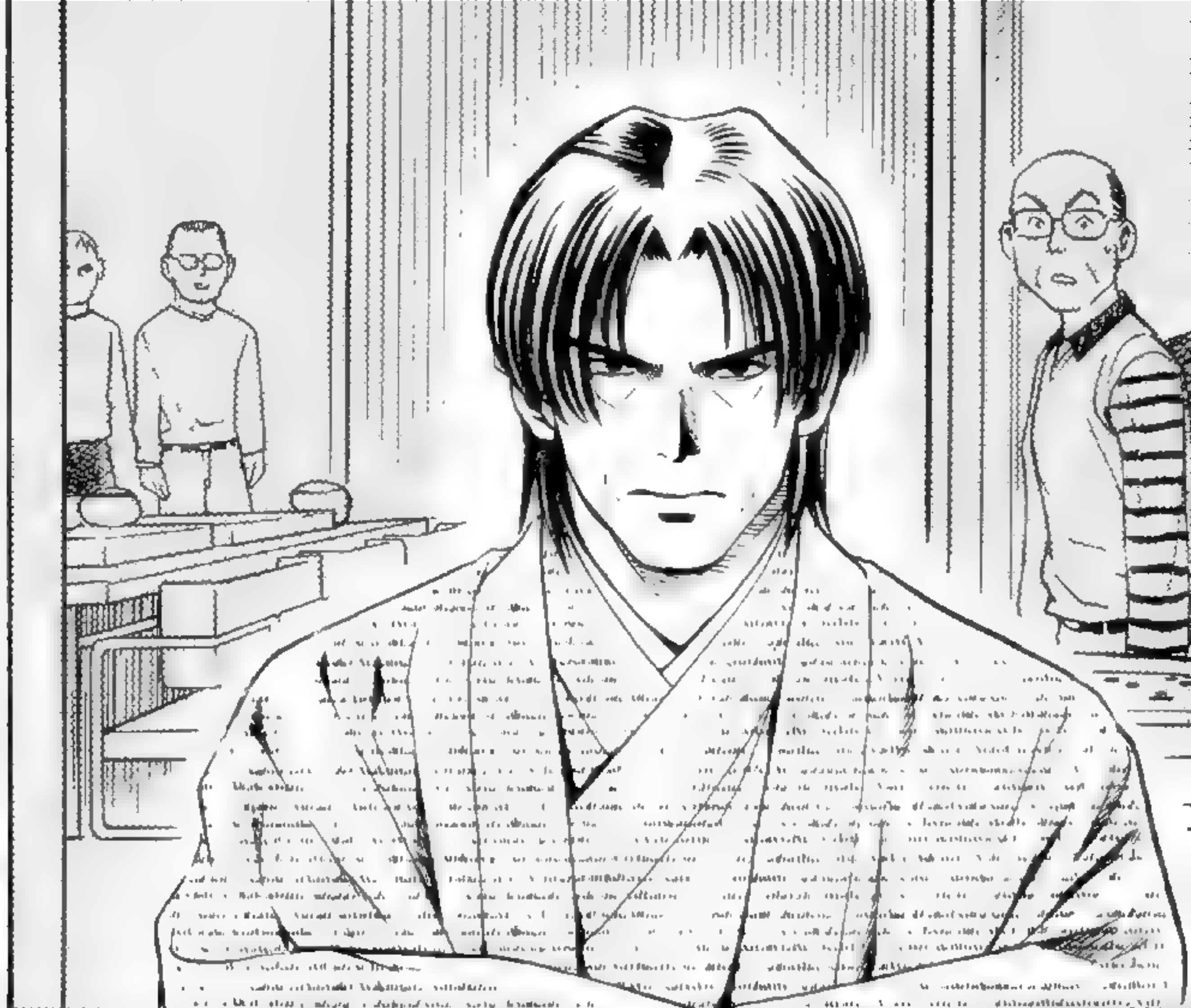


Even  
when I  
was with  
Hon'inbo  
Shusaku,  
there  
were few  
players...

...Who  
emitted  
such an  
aura!









READ  
THIS  
WAY

THIS MAN HAS  
AKIRA'S SAME  
INTENSITY...



KLUNK

HMPH...

I'M THE  
ONLY ONE  
WHO DOESN'T  
BELONG...



.....



I BET SAI  
HAS IT TOO...

P.E.O.T.W

I WANT  
TO...

LET'S  
BEGIN...

SAI, I  
WANT  
TO...













IT  
ALMOST  
LOOKS  
LIKE HIS  
FINGER-  
TIPS ARE  
GLOWING!

WOW!



HE TAKES  
THE STONE  
IN BETWEEN  
PLIANT  
FINGERS...

Now  
descend  
at 2-3.

THAT IS  
WHY...

KLUNK

AND  
RELEASES  
THE STONE  
ABOVE THE  
BOARD.

THAT IS  
WHY IT IS  
DIFFICULT  
FOR ME TO  
BELIEVE...



I...I WANT  
TO BE  
ABLE TO  
DO THAT...

The  
16-10  
star  
point.

HIS  
FINGER-  
TIPS ARE  
GLOWING!

...THAT  
SOME CHILD  
DEFEATED  
AKIRA.

KLAK







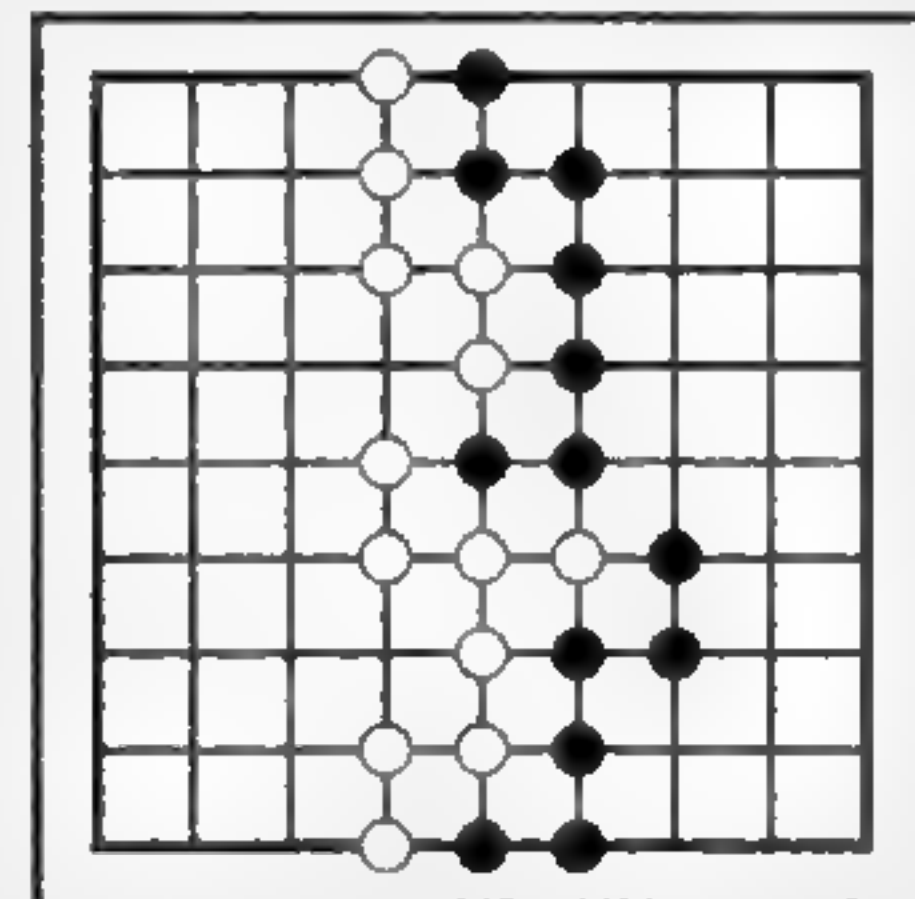
I WANT TO  
BE ABLE  
TO SNAP  
A STONE  
DOWN LIKE  
THAT...



# Hikaru no Go Q&A

**Q 3 You win Shogi (Japanese Chess) by capturing the king. How do you win Go?**

**A** The winner of Go is the side, White or Black, that has more territory. In the figure shown, Black's territory is on the right, White's territory is on the left. Which side is the winner?



Territory is counted by number of points. In this diagram, Black has 26 points and White has 29 points. White wins by 3 points.

**Q 4 Can anyone go to a Go Salon?**

**A** Yes, go ahead and go to one if you see one in town. The people there are sure to welcome children, women, and anyone new to Go.



**Q 5 How old do you have to be to become a pro?**

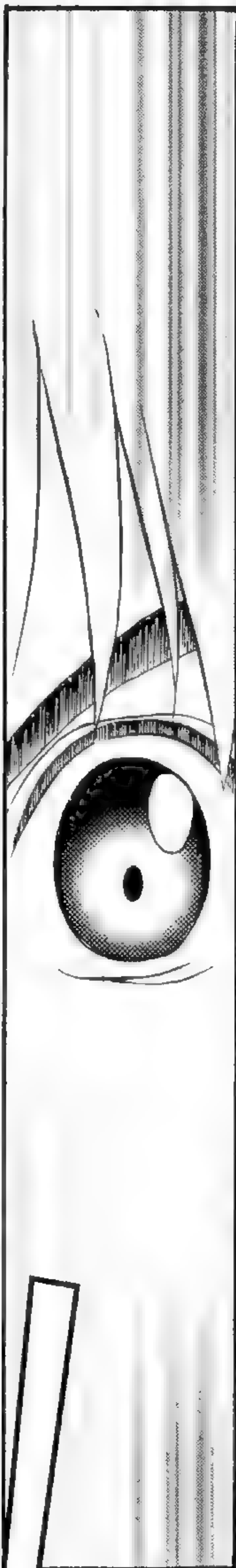
**A** Go is strictly a world of ability. Anyone can become a pro as long as they pass the test to qualify, even a small child. Of course, it's not easy. Cho Chi-hoon (known in Japan as Cho Chikun) became a pro at the young age of 11.

**Q 6 My school doesn't have a Go club. How can I start playing?**

**A** One way is to learn from Go on TV and from books, but maybe someone you know plays Go – your father, an uncle, or maybe one of your teachers at school. If you can't think of anyone, try going to a Go salon. There's also plenty of Go classes for kids at community centers. You can get more details by contacting the American Go Association at [www.usgo.org](http://www.usgo.org).



Game 7: "Three Problems of Life and Death"





# Game 7

## "Three Problems of Life and Death"



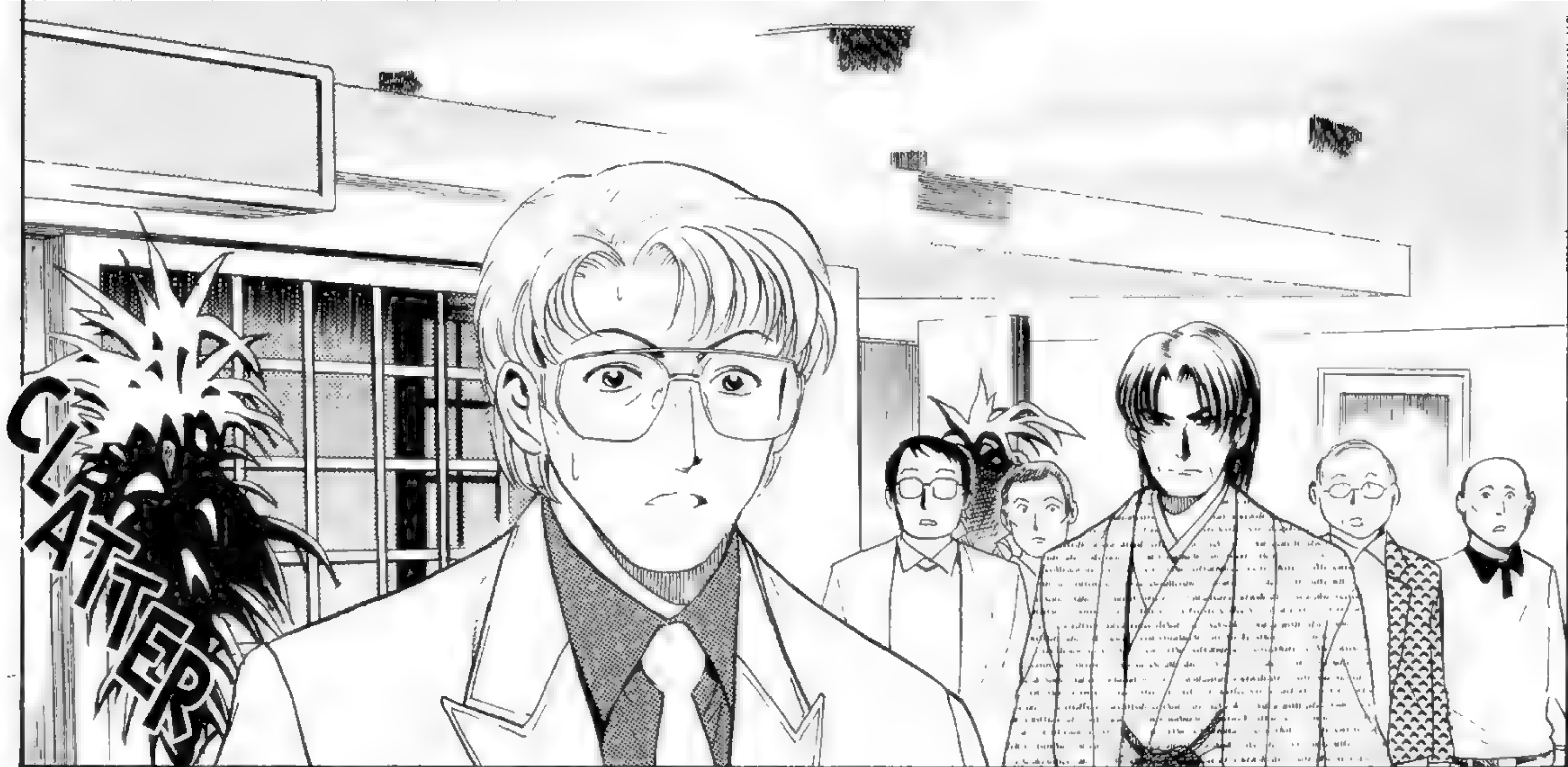














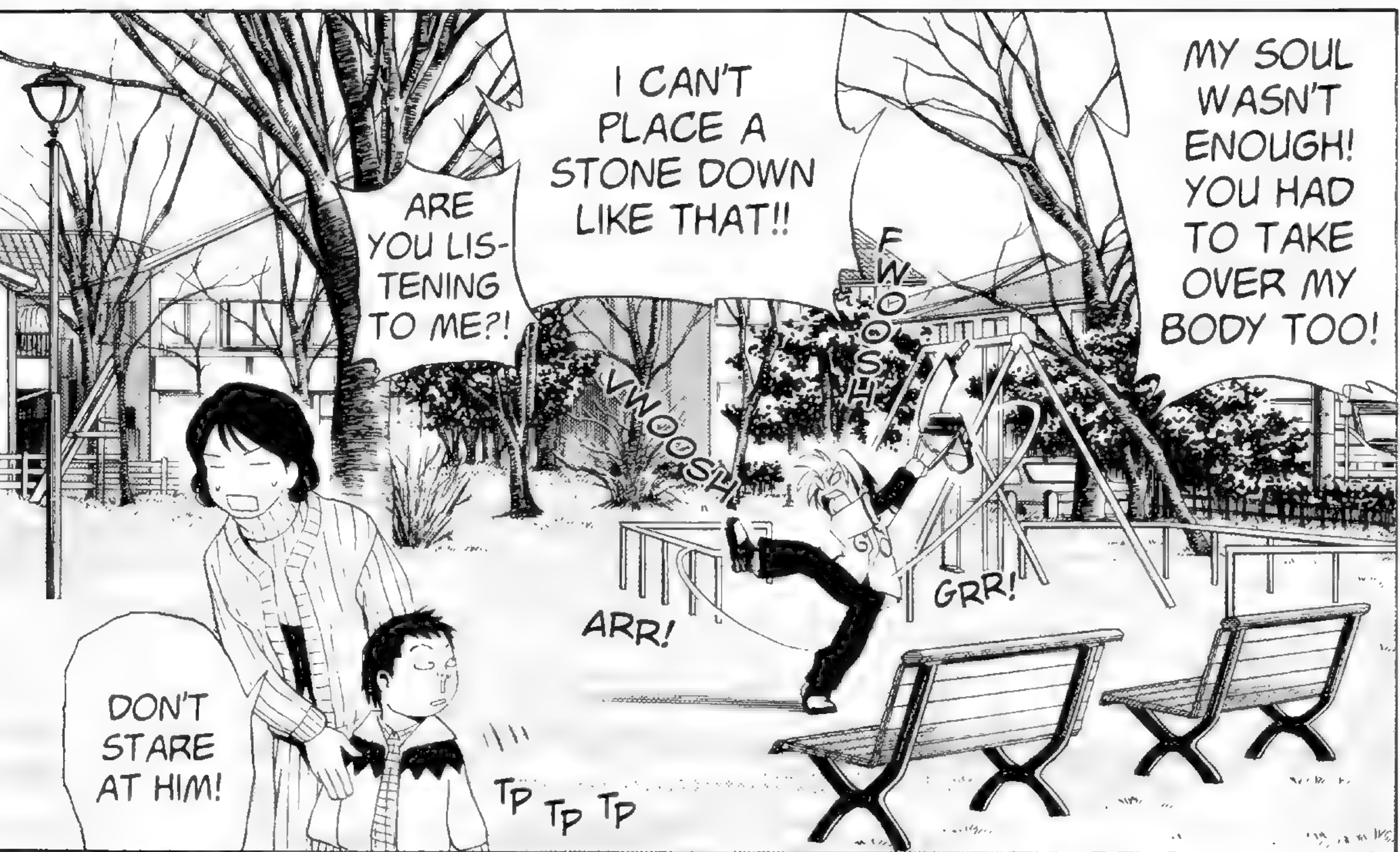






YOU TOOK  
CONTROL  
OF MY BODY,  
DIDN'T YOU?!

DARN  
IT, SAI!!



ARE  
YOU LIS-  
TENING  
TO ME?!

I CAN'T  
PLACE A  
STONE DOWN  
LIKE THAT!!

MY SOUL  
WASN'T  
ENOUGH!  
YOU HAD  
TO TAKE  
OVER MY  
BODY TOO!

DON'T  
STARE  
AT HIM!

TP TP TP

ARR!

GRR!

VWOOSH

F  
W  
O  
O  
S  
H



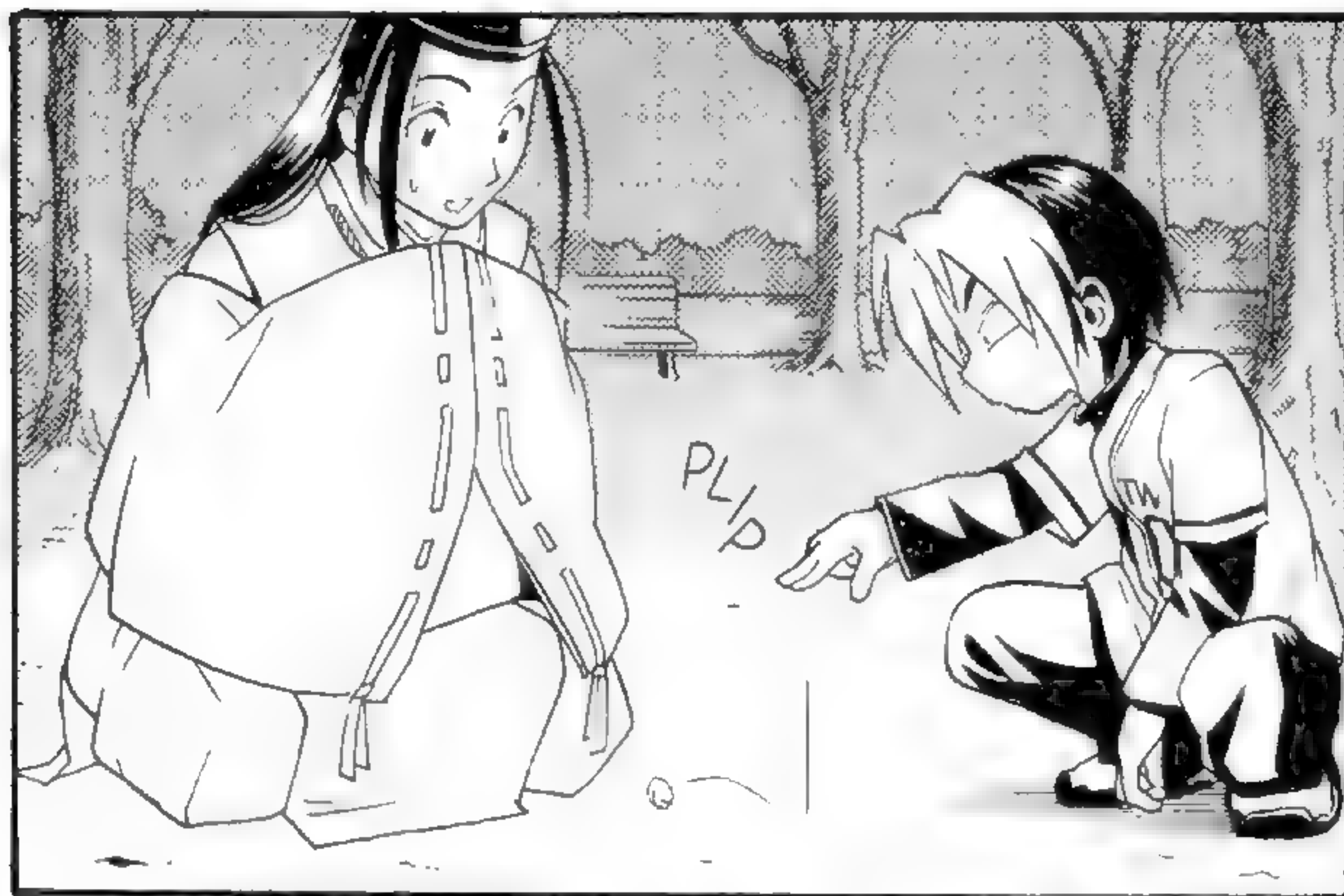
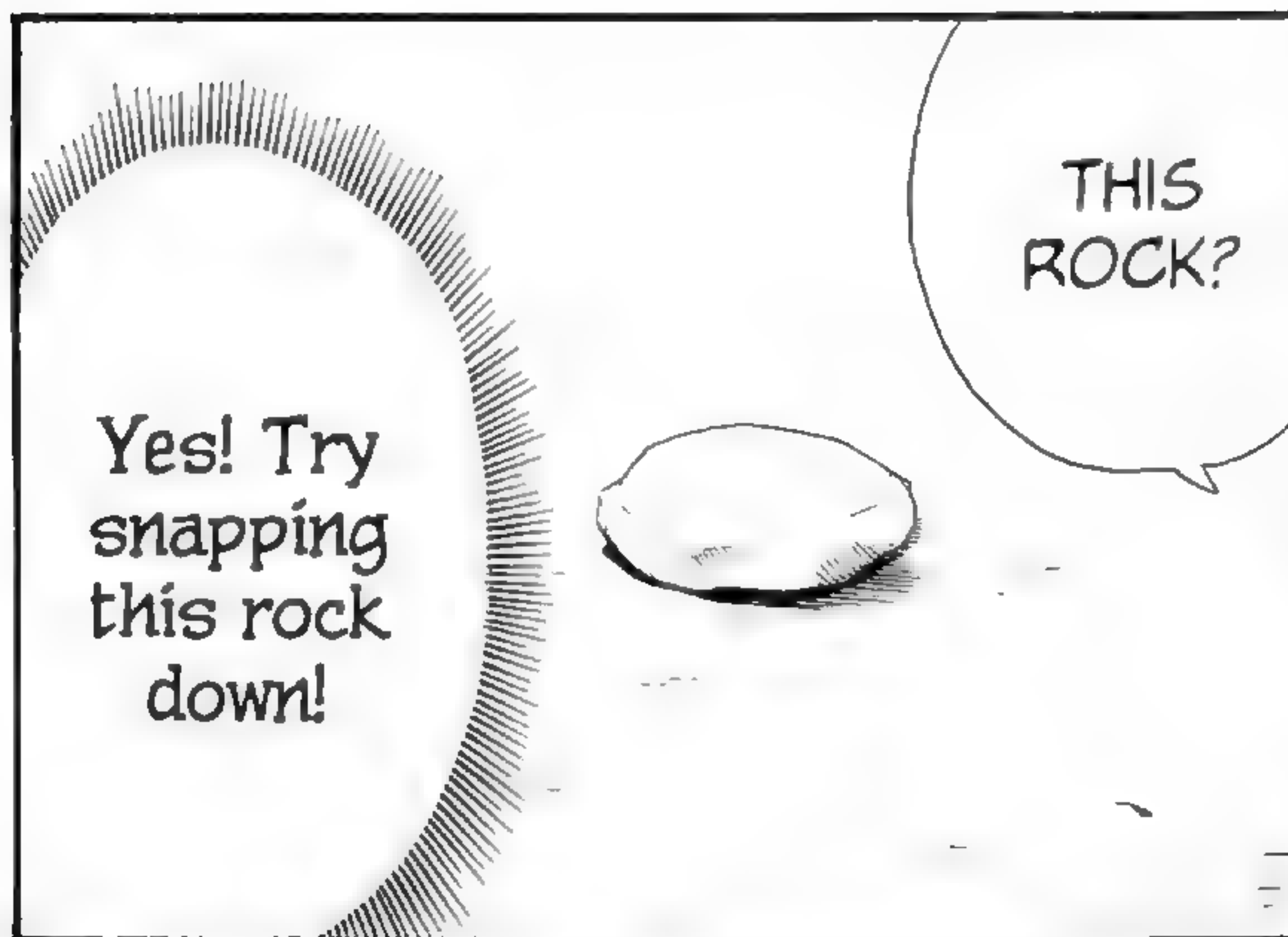
Yes!  
Yes!  
That's  
right!

THEN YOU'RE  
SAYING I PUT  
THAT STONE  
DOWN ALL  
ON MY  
OWN?!



You're  
wrong,  
Hikaru!  
I can do no  
such thing!





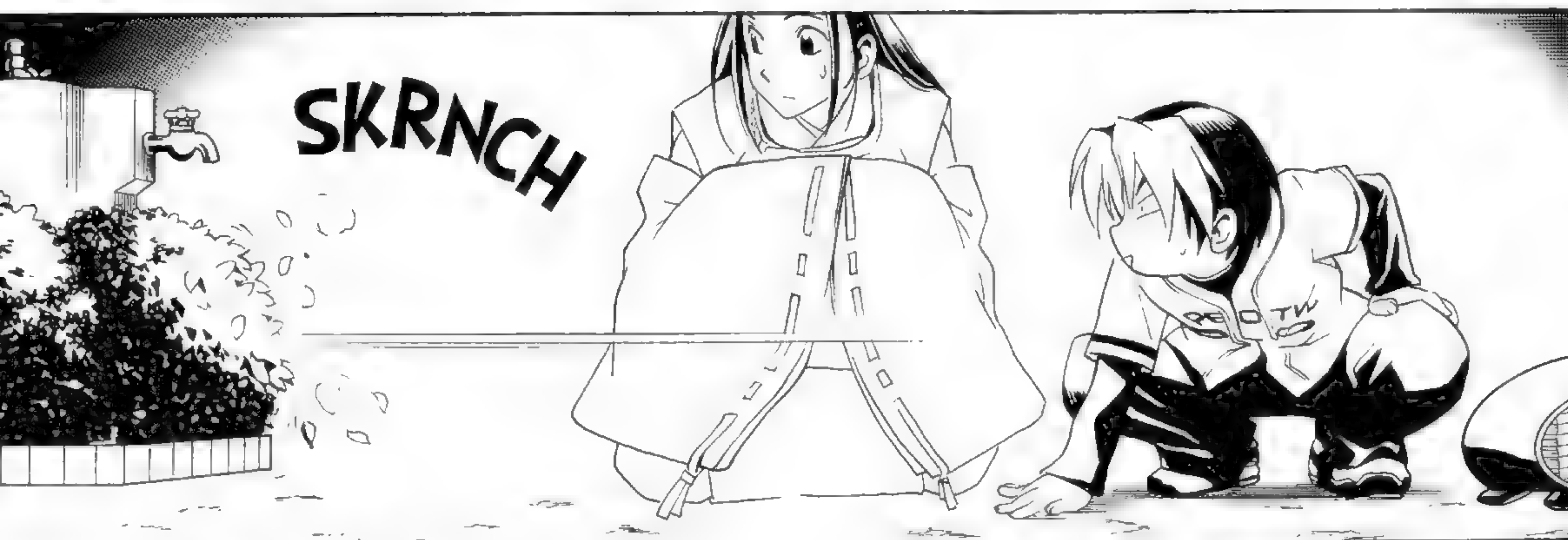




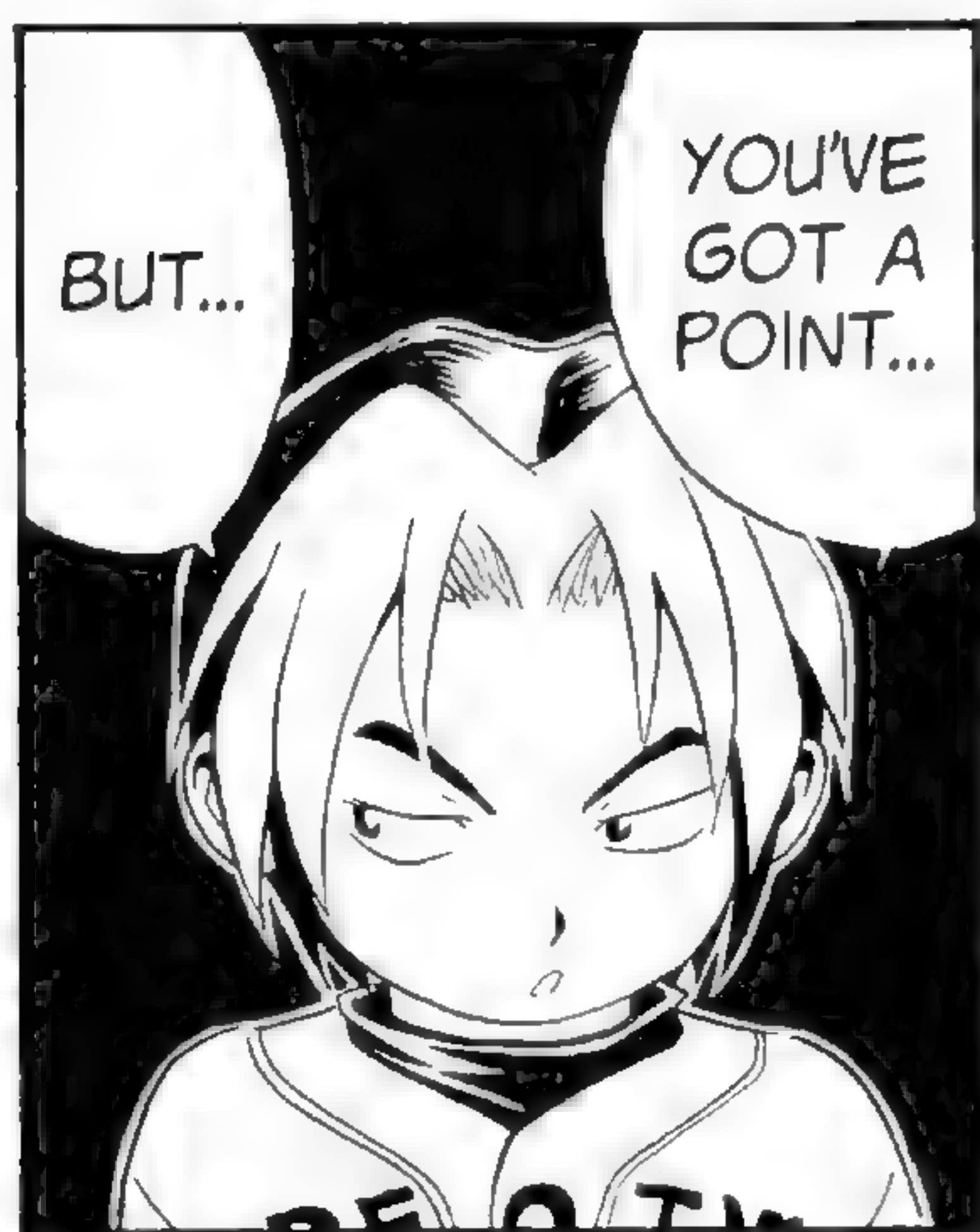
NOW  
I JUST  
SMACK IT  
DOWN!!



ALL  
RIGHT!!!



SKRNCH



BUT...

YOU'VE  
GOT A  
POINT...

But, Hikaru,  
you really  
played that  
stone on your  
own. You didn't  
even put it  
down where  
I told  
you to!



HMM...



Fine...  
Go ahead  
and think  
that if you  
want...

I LET  
MY GUARD  
DOWN AND  
YOU TOOK  
OVER MY  
BODY!!



You are  
becoming  
more familiar  
with the game  
and I think you  
want to start  
playing on  
your own...

But, Hikaru,  
*you* really did  
make that  
move...







I WAS...  
UH...  
PLAYING  
GO...

HUH?

WHERE'VE  
YOU  
BEEN?

I JUST  
CAME  
FROM  
YOUR  
HOUSE...



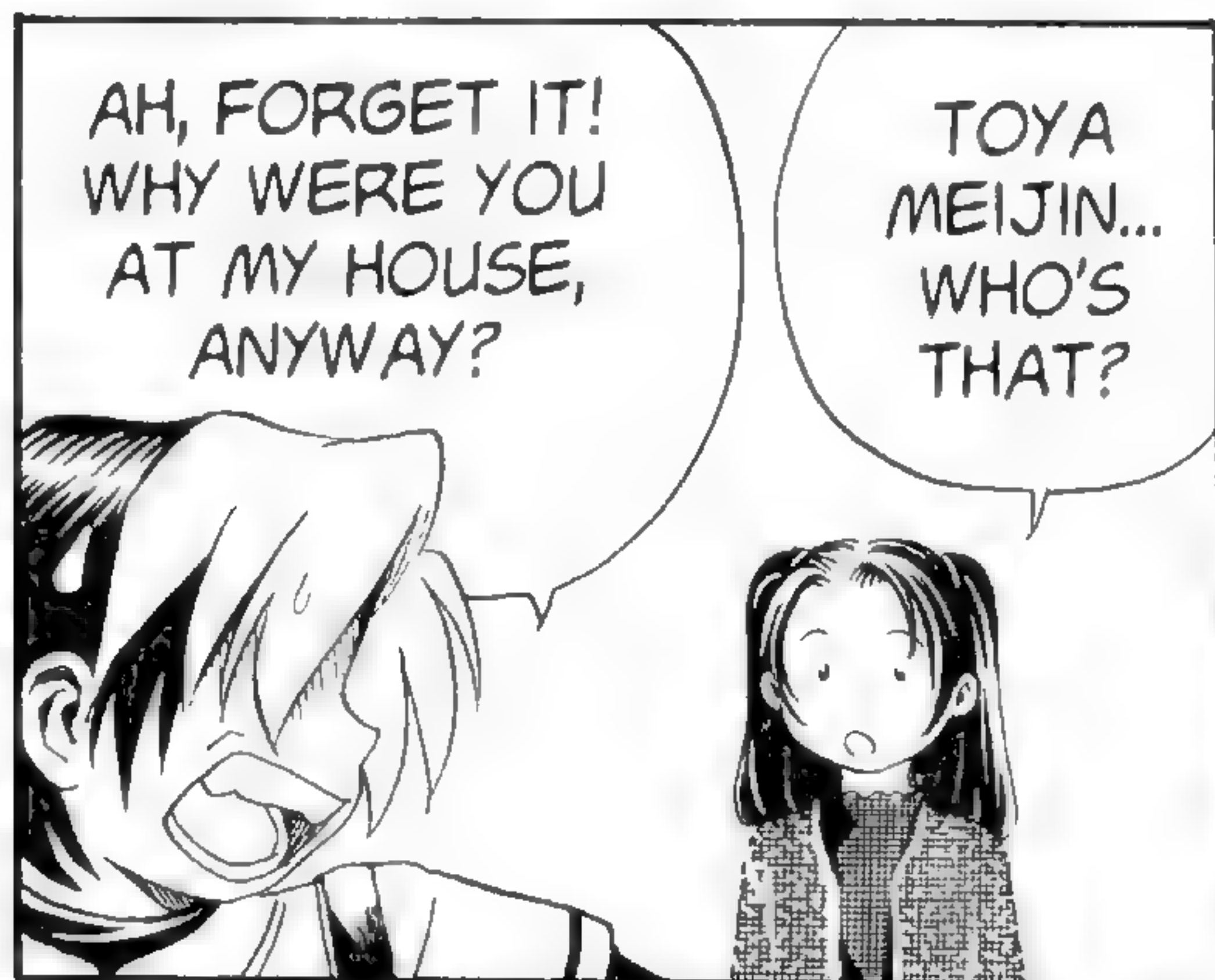
AKARI...



I DO  
NOT  
LIKE  
IT!!

GO...?

YOU'VE  
BEEN  
PLAYING  
A LOT.  
YOU MUST  
REALLY  
LIKE IT.



AH, FORGET IT!  
WHY WERE YOU  
AT MY HOUSE,  
ANYWAY?

TOYA  
MEIJIN...  
WHO'S  
THAT?



HAH! YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO BELIEVE  
IT! I WAS PLAYING  
AGAINST **TOYA  
MEIJIN!!**

WHO  
WERE YOU  
PLAYING  
WITH?



DO YOU  
WANT  
TO GO?

TAKOYAKI  
¥300  
2月28日(日) 葉瀬中創立祭  
葉瀬中創立祭

MY SISTER  
GAVE ME  
THESE. HER  
JUNIOR HIGH  
SCHOOL'S  
PUTTING ON  
A FESTIVAL...





\*octopus batter balls.











Hey!  
Look  
over  
there!

茶道部

お好み焼  
部

剣

I see...

DIFFERENT  
CLUBS  
FROM THE  
SCHOOL  
PUT UP  
BOOTH.

SOMETHING  
LIKE THAT.



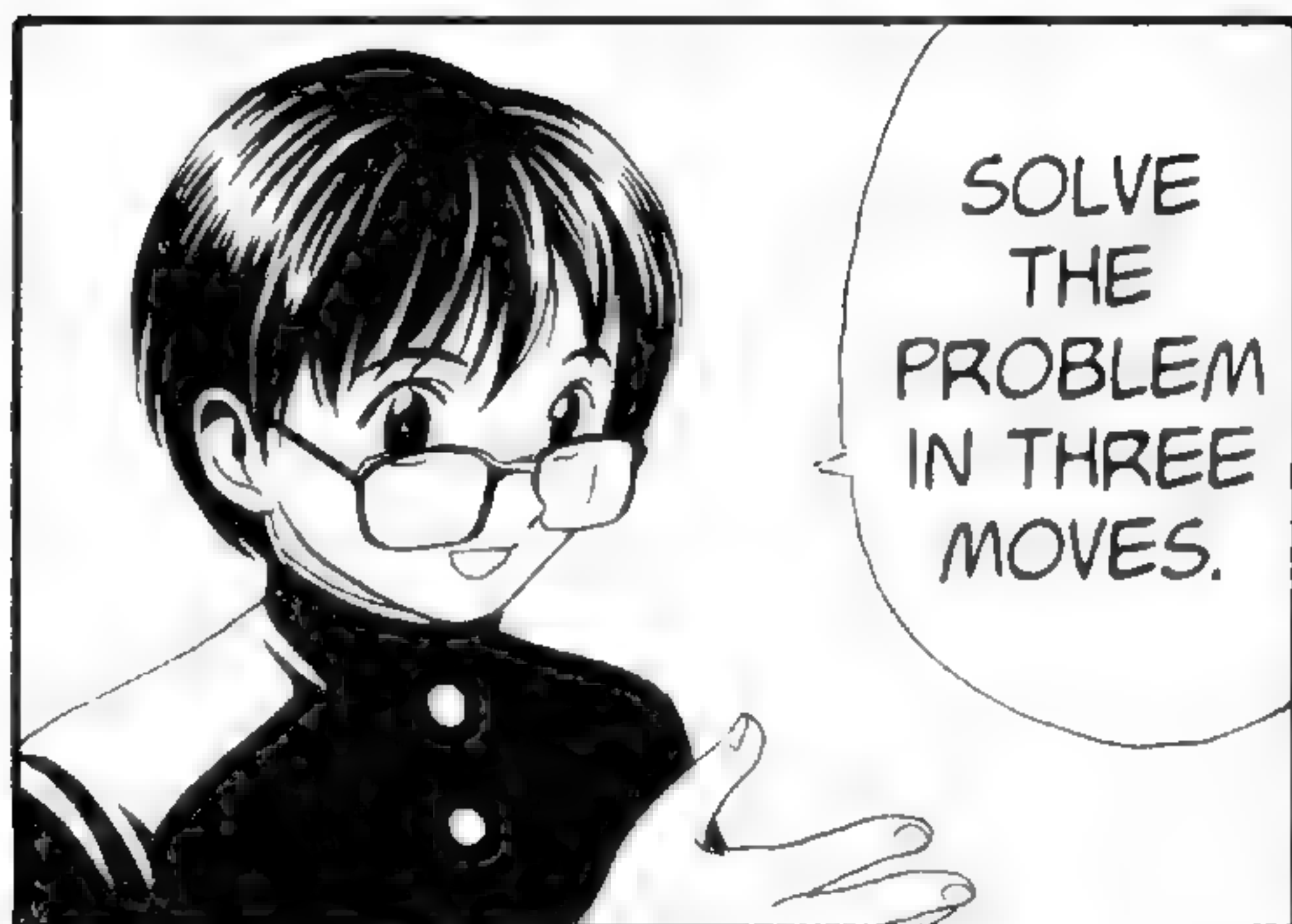
Look,  
Hikaru!  
♡

OKAY,  
OKAY...  
WE'LL  
GO  
TAKE A  
LOOK.



HERE'S AN  
INTERMEDIATE  
PROBLEM.

They're  
playing  
Go!!

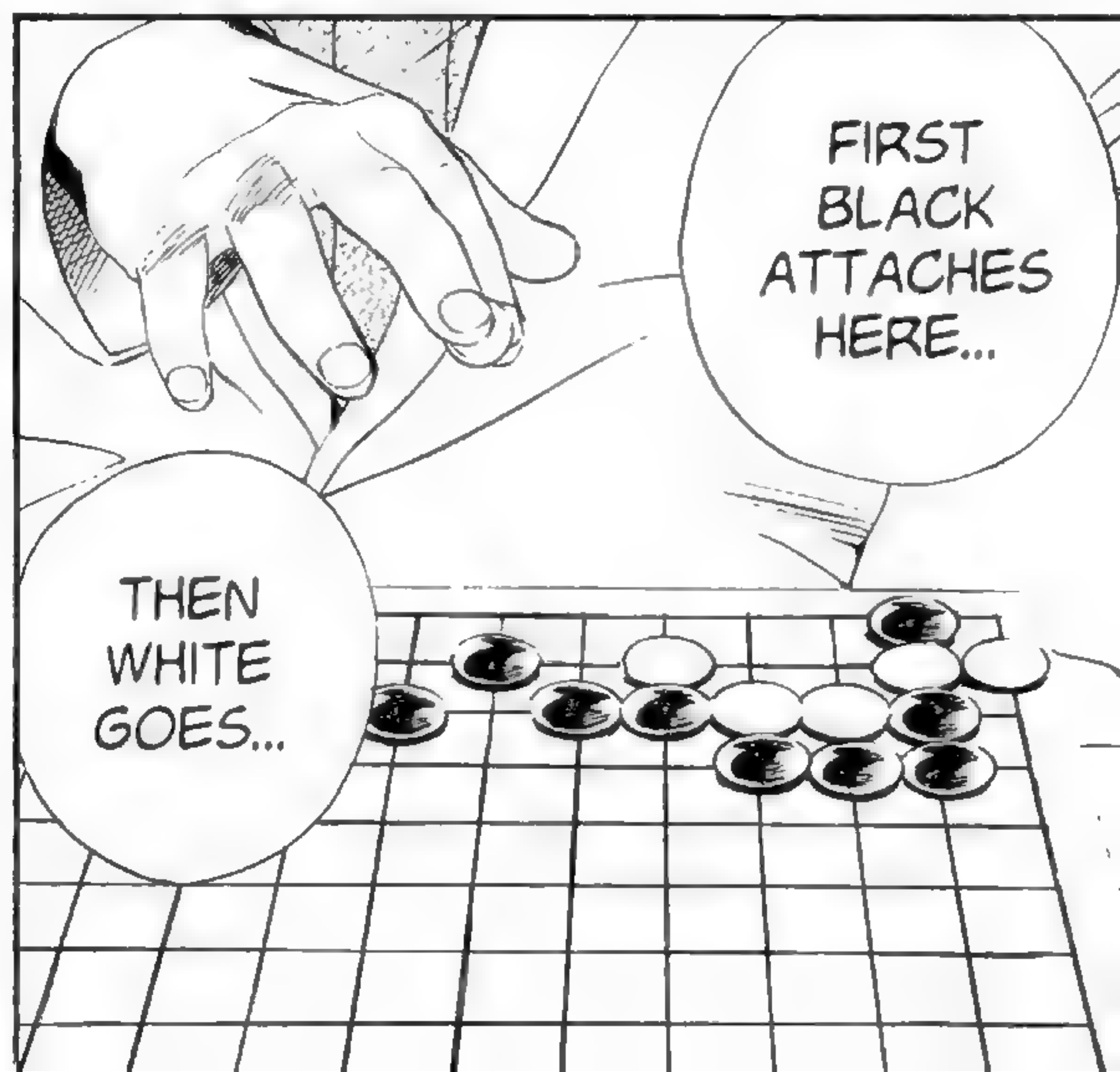


SOLVE  
THE  
PROBLEM  
IN THREE  
MOVES.



K L K

...HERE.



FIRST  
BLACK  
ATTACHES  
HERE...

THEN  
WHITE  
GOES...





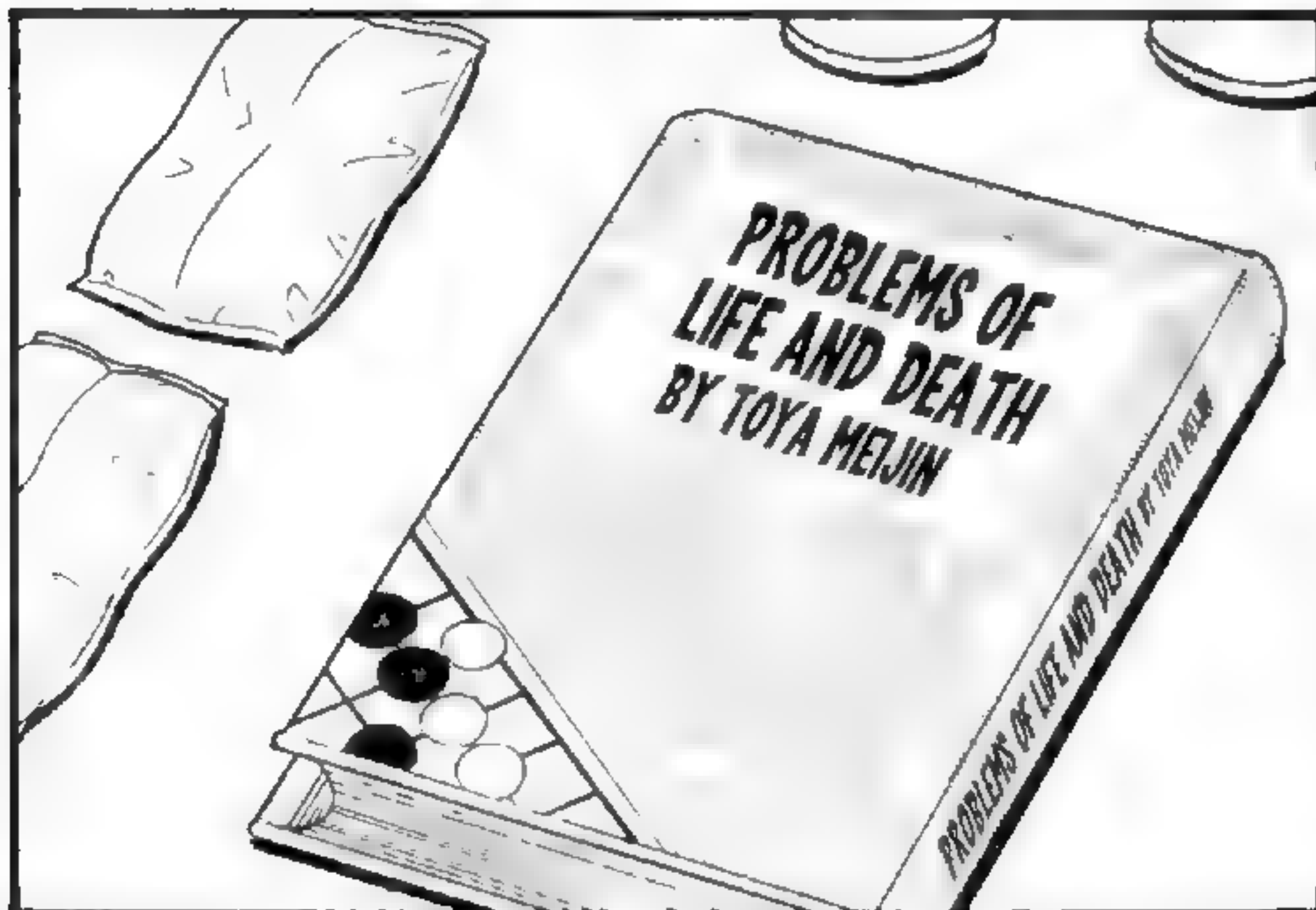
THIS IS  
PRETTY  
HARD...

OH, I  
SEE...



WHAT IF  
WHITE  
GOES  
HERE?

K  
L  
K



PROBLEMS OF  
LIFE AND DEATH  
BY TOYA MEIJIN



Hikaru,  
what's  
that  
book?



IT'S THE  
GRAND  
PRIZE!

"PROBLEMS  
OF LIFE  
AND DEATH"  
BY TOYA  
MEIJIN...



SURE.

CAN I  
TRY?

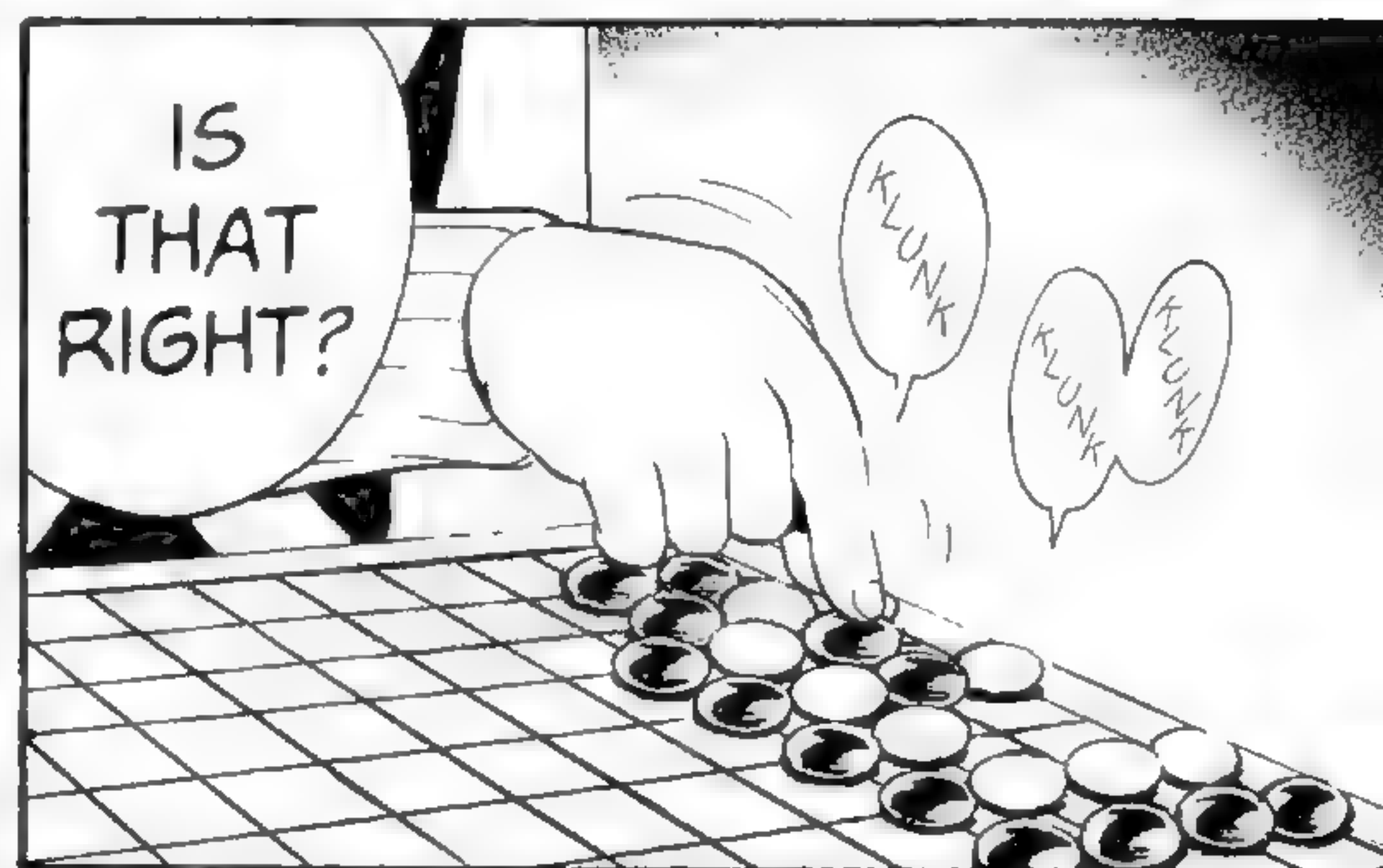
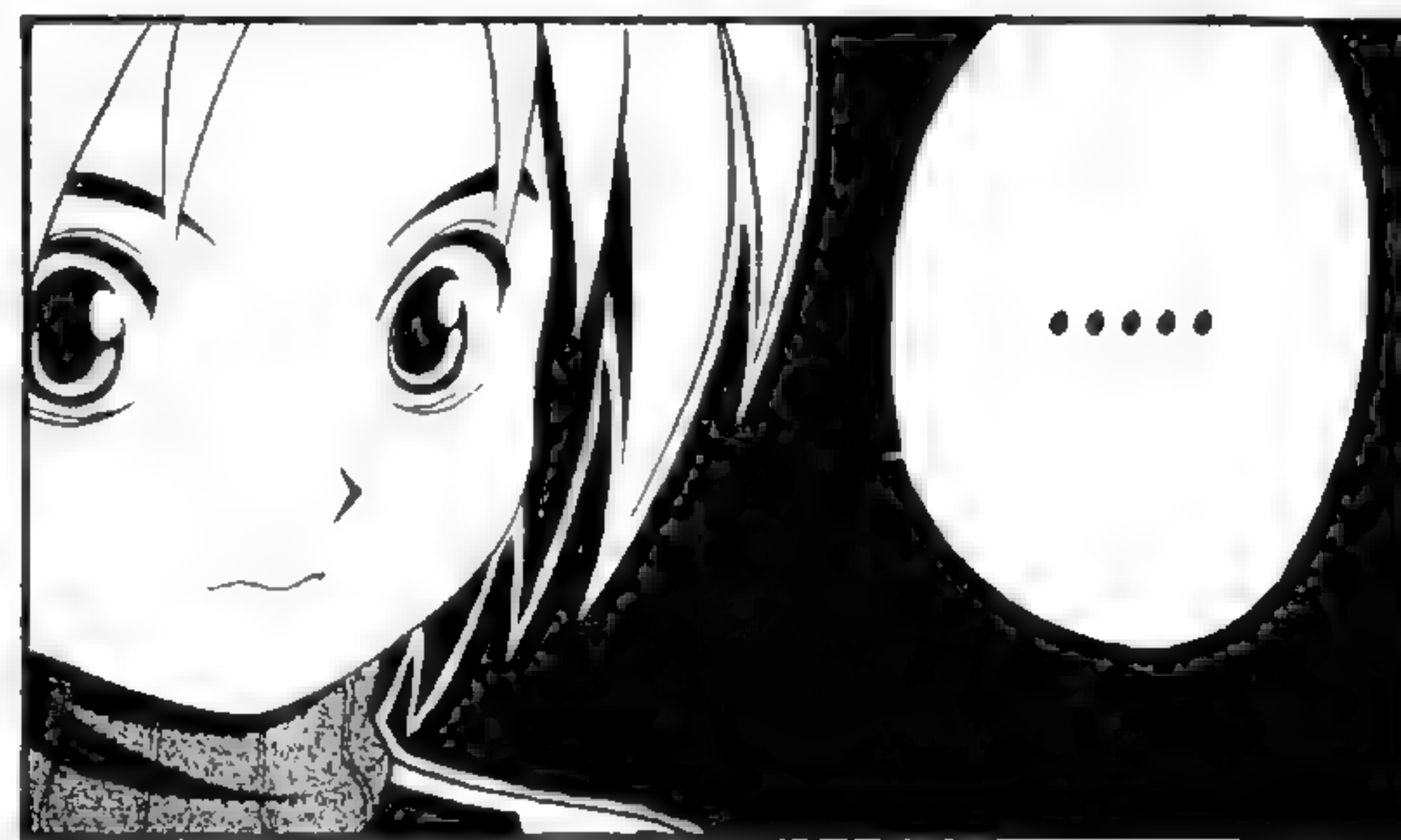
K  
L  
A  
T  
T  
E  
R



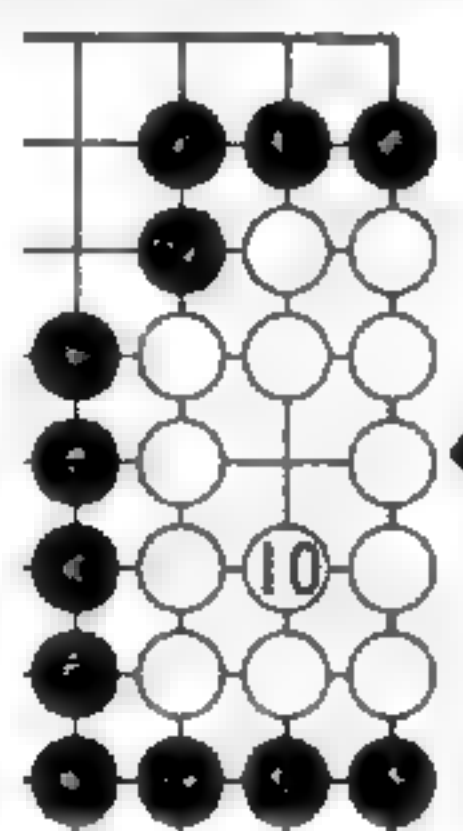
Hikaru! I  
want it! I  
want it!

UGH!  
ER...

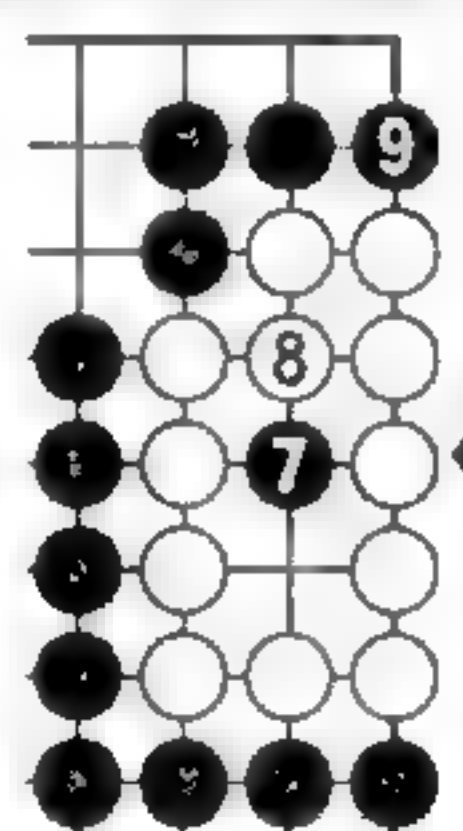




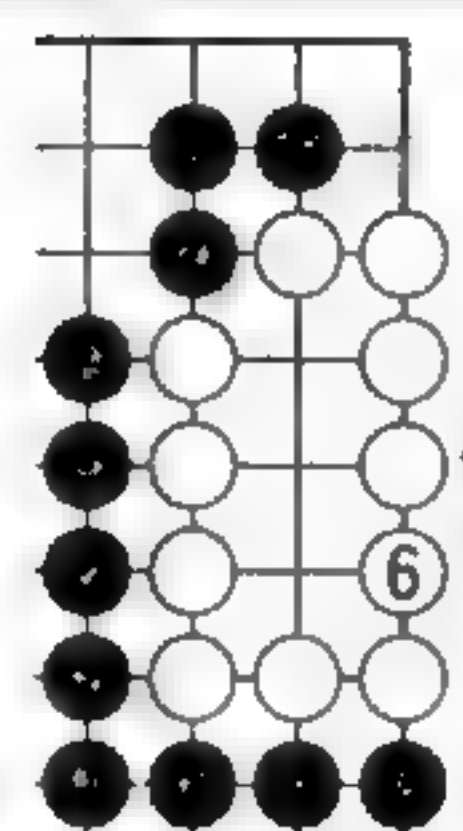
When you get a bit more familiar with Go like Hikaru, you, too, will be able to see that White was dead after the third move.



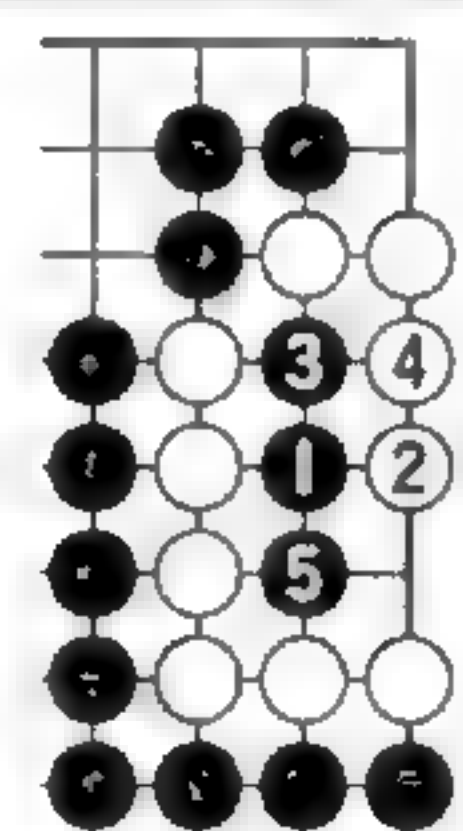
White succeeded in capturing Black with 10, but now if Black plays the center point, he will capture all of White's stones.



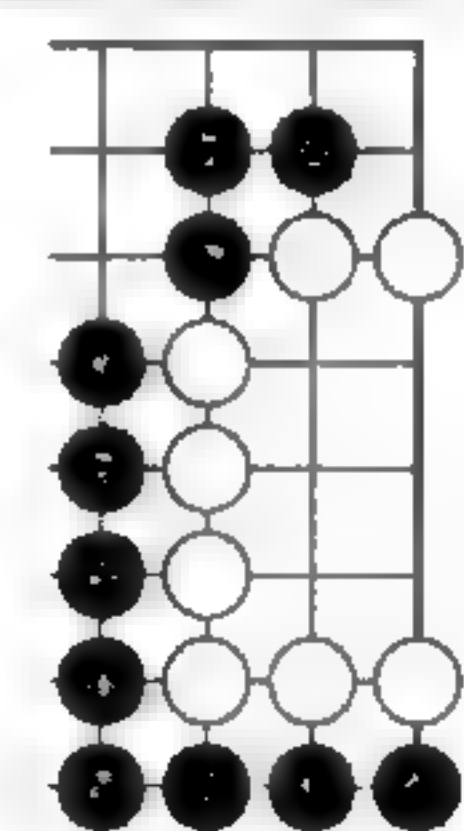
Black plays inside again. White captures the invading stone.



With 6, White captures all of Black's invading stones.



Black goes inside to kill White. White attempts to surround Black's invading stones.



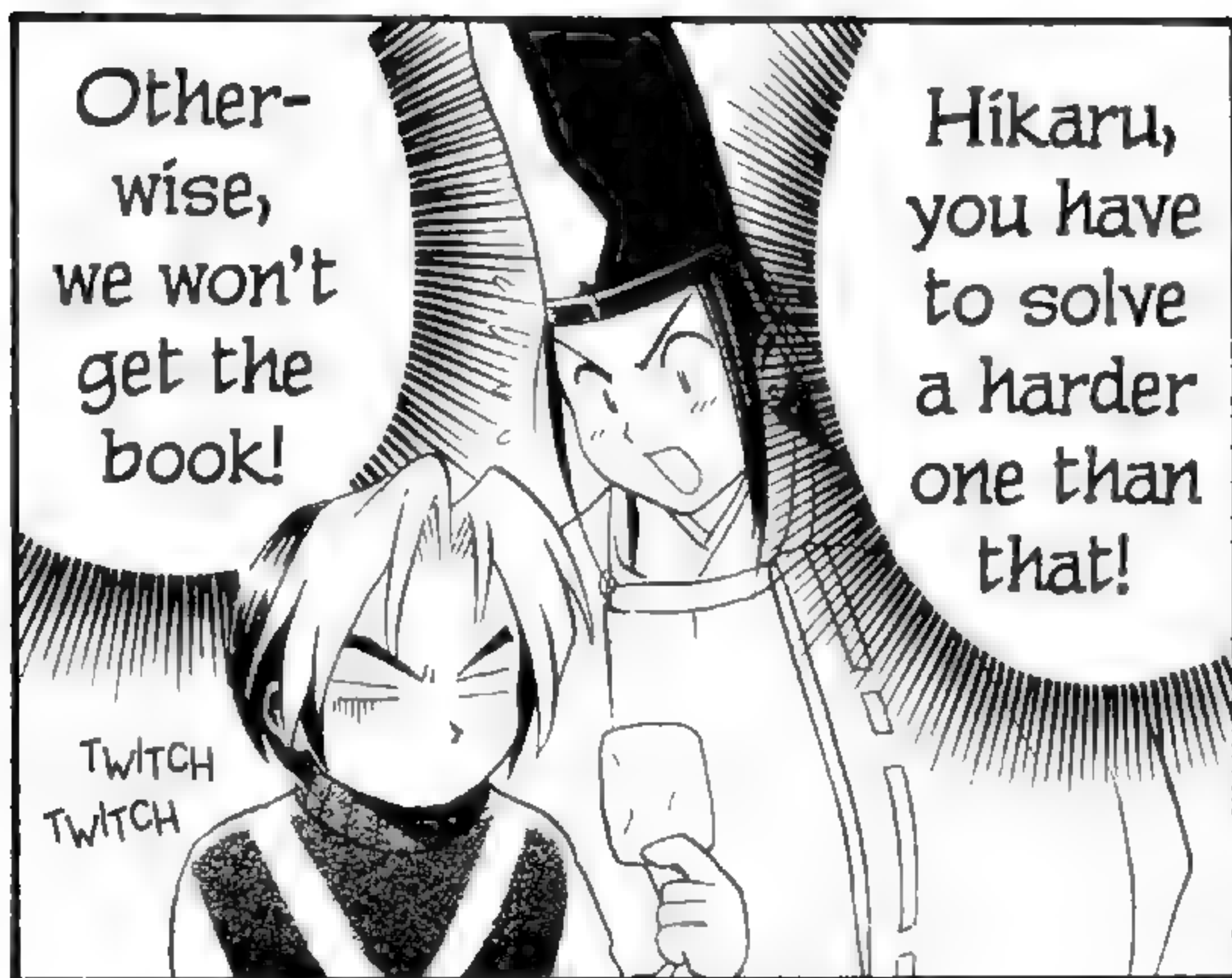
How can Black kill all of White's stones?

Hikaru is still a beginner, but he was able to solve this problem because he is learning the fundamentals in his Go class. Here's an explanation of the problem Hikaru solved. (The numbers indicate the order of play.)

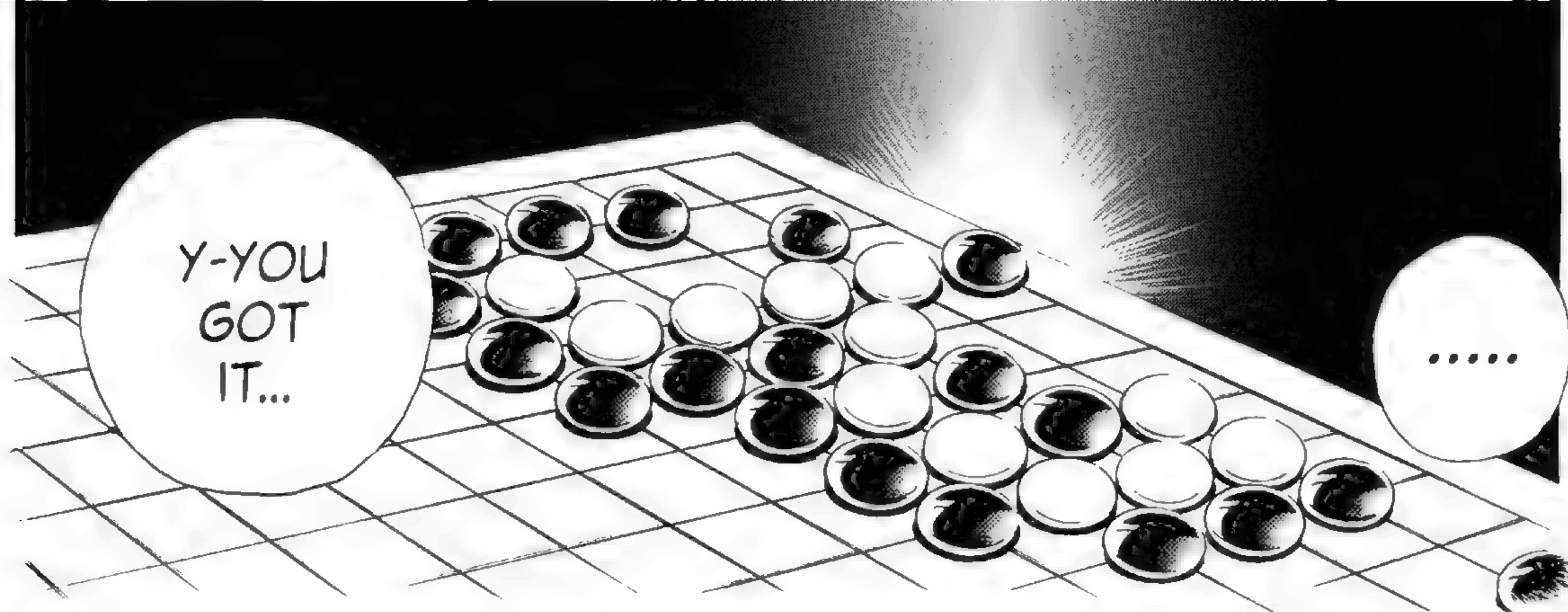


Sai's Commentary







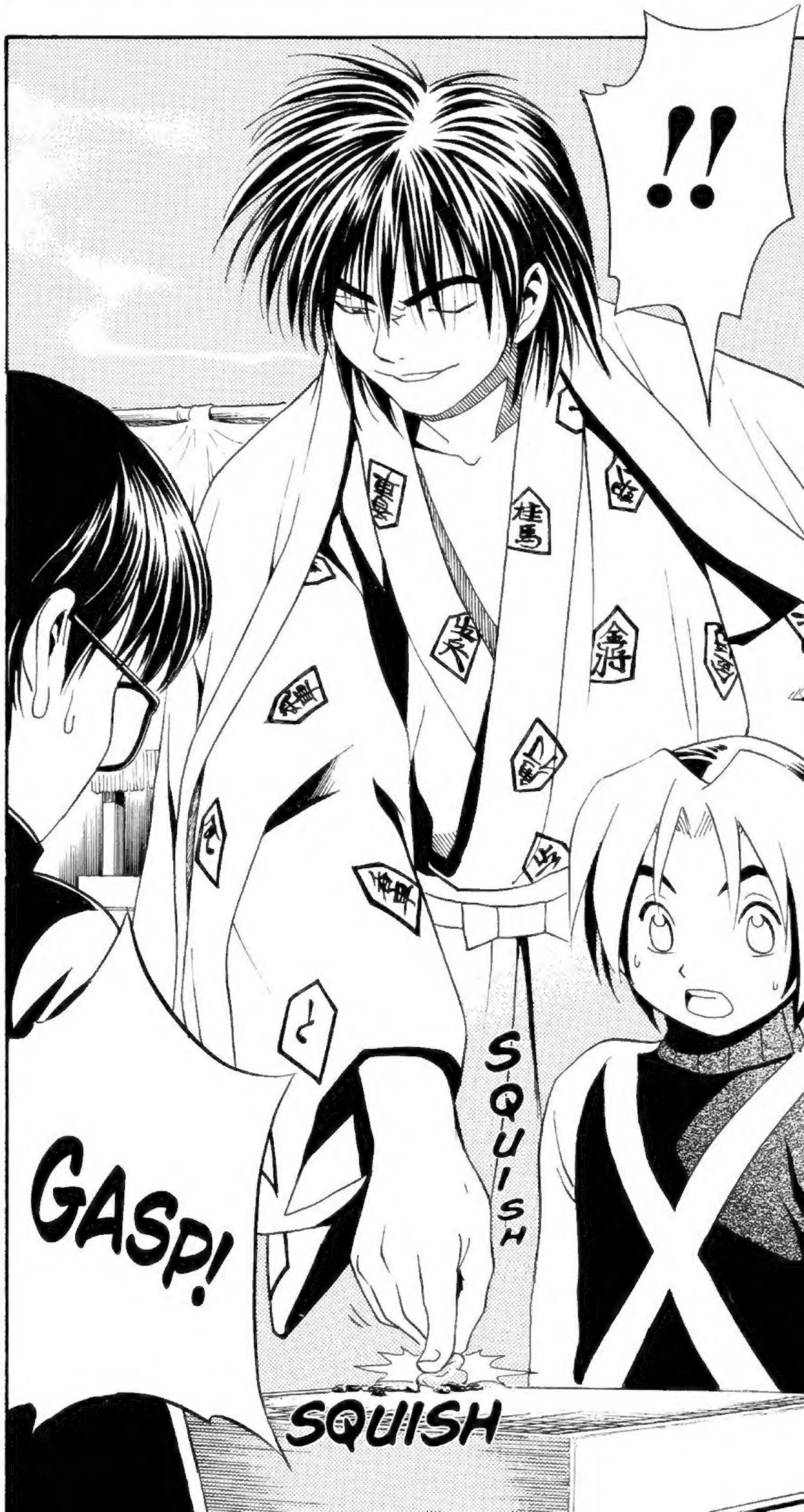
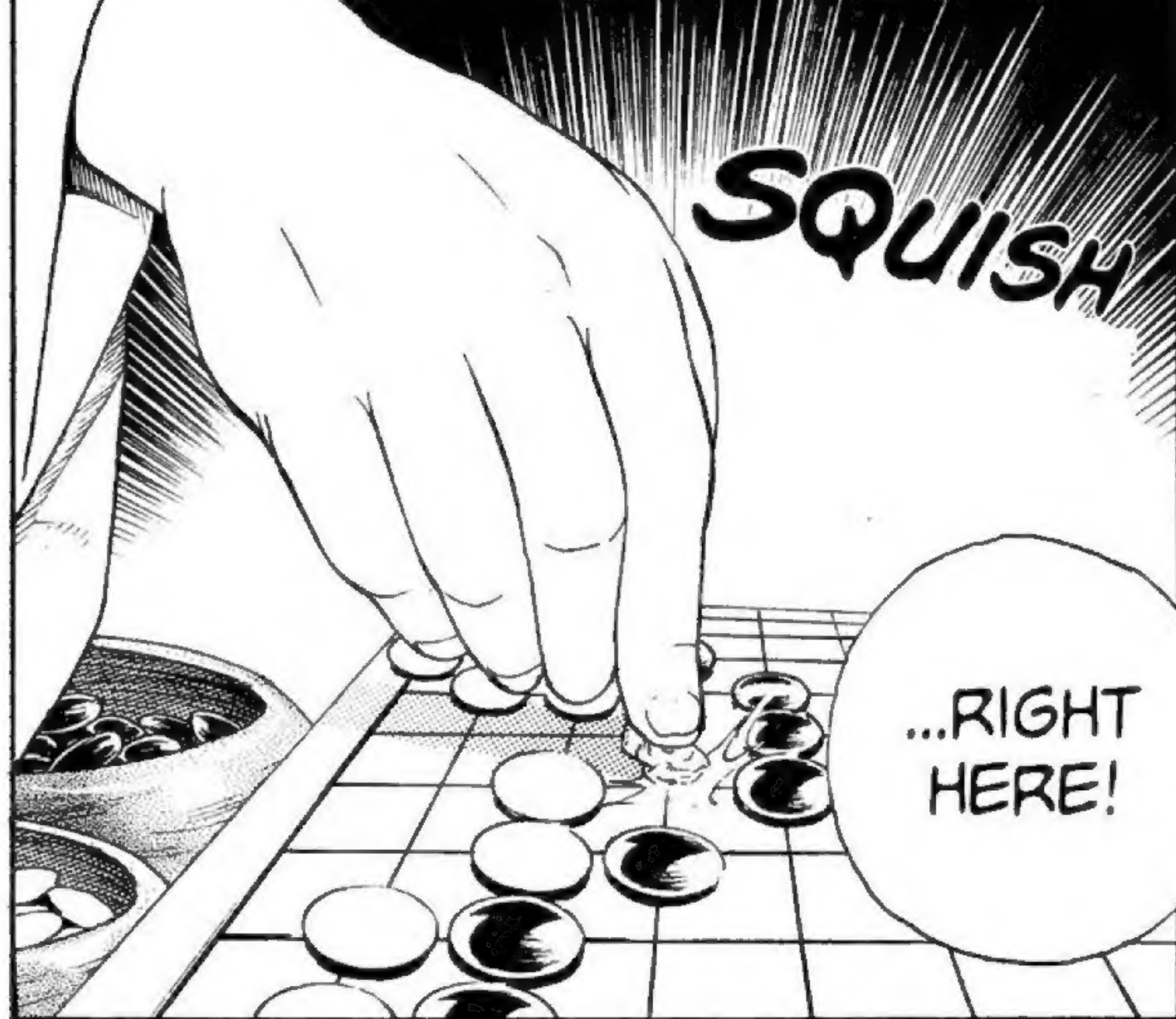




READ  
THIS  
WAY











WHO CARES  
ABOUT PLAYING  
WITH A BUNCH  
OF STONES  
FOR TERRITORY.  
SHOGI\* IS 1000  
TIMES MORE  
FUN.

WHAT'S THE  
BIG DEAL  
ABOUT A  
LAME GUY  
WHO LOST  
TO ME?

WHO  
CARES  
ABOUT  
AKIRA  
TOYA?

\*Japanese Chess



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